



Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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Russia: Yeltsin Said Ignoring Violations of Chechnya Peace Plan

*MK1104112696 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian
11 Apr 96 p 1*

[Report by Tatyana Malkina: "The War Goes on; the President Keeps Silent. Boris Yeltsin Tells a State Commission To Expedite the Chechen Settlement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, a Security Council session was followed by a meeting of the State Commission for Monitoring the Settlement in the Chechen Republic, which was attended by the president. After opening the session, Boris Yeltsin presented a list of intermediaries in Chechnya. Their names were not revealed to journalists, however, and so we can only guess as to whom — except Shaymiyev and Nazarbayev, apparently approved by the president in this capacity earlier — Boris Yeltsin has entrusted to mediate between himself and Dzhokhar Dudayev. Nor is it yet a foregone conclusion that the latter is ready to talk with the Russian leadership. Informed sources only say that the president's proposals about the commission were self-evident: Empower it to conduct negotiations with all the sides to the conflict, including not only the legal authorities, but also representatives of all forces actually operating in Chechnya. And also obligate the new agency to ensure that Yeltsin's peace plan is implemented in an appropriate manner. Furthermore, sources say, Boris Yeltsin is planning to ensure maximum transparency for the commission's activity.

Meanwhile, in spite of his commitment to openness, the president has not as yet made any official statements concerning the events that have occurred in Chechnya since the "peace edict" was signed on 31 March. On one hand, Boris Yeltsin did not say that the continued bombings of Chechen territory are gross acts of arbitrariness by as-yet-unidentified rogues, but on the other hand, he did not say that the military operations conform to his orders or his edict. Moreover, for some reason believing it inappropriate to publicly explain the character of combat operations in Chechnya, Boris Yeltsin has, to all appearances, firmly decided not to mention them at all.

Furthermore, Air Force Commander in Chief Petr Deynekin, who is, in a certain way, subordinate to Supreme Commander Boris Yeltsin, while denying — in a specifically Russian spirit — reports that federal aviation was responsible for bombing the villages of Katyr-Yurt and Shalazhi, in effect admitted yesterday that his aircraft had in fact dropped bombs on Chechen territory — at least on 2 April — although not on villages, but on "concentrations of gunmen."

The authorities' stubborn disregard for the so-called eyewitness accounts throughout the Chechen conflict has become habitual. SEGODNYA, on the other hand, has no reason to ignore reports by its own correspondent who has just returned from Chechnya, reports that say that air attacks are not becoming any less real, even if the president himself does not know or does not want to talk about them. The authorities' stubbornness is clearly ill-advised; that is, unless we are dealing with some intrigue designed to fully discredit [presidential] candidate Yeltsin.

Russia: Yeltsin Outlines Tasks of Commission on Chechen Conflict

*LD1004203796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
2028 GMT 10 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 10 (Itar-Tass) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin outlined the tasks of Russia's commission for the settlement of the Chechen conflict which held its second meeting in the Kremlin on Wednesday.

The president urged the commission to "ensure interoperability among various stages of crisis settlement in Chechnya, determine these stages and their succession, and keep the public informed about the implementation of the programme," the presidential press service told Itar-Tass.

The commission analysed the development of the situation in Chechnya since March 31 when the president unveiled his peace plan for this North Caucasus region.

Yeltsin said that "the commission has the necessary powers to conduct negotiations with all parties to the conflict and all operating power bodies and forces in Chechnya."

He also made it clear that the commission "has the authority to make corrections, within certain limits, in the programme of crisis settlement, depending on the development of the situation."

The commission also approved a plan of work for April and May submitted by its chairman, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

It agreed a scheme of mediation in talks with Chechen rebels and discussed potential mediators.

The commission's meeting demonstrated the unity of all branches of government on the question of Chechen settlement and "reached understanding and consensus on all issues on the agenda," Russian presidential aide Emil Pain told Itar-Tass.

The meeting was attended by State Duma Chairman Gennadiy Seleznev, Federation Council Chairman

Yegor Stroyev, head of the Moscow-backed Chechen government Doku Zavgayev, Russian Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov and chief of the Russian General Staff Mikhail Kolesnikov.

The participants in the meeting "discussed a circle of mediators. Their names were announced today by President Boris Yeltsin. Some of them will work together, others will replace each other at various points when such a need arises," Pain said.

He stressed that "in the Kremlin (we) discussed a general concept of the negotiating process. Its specific aspects will be worked out by the state commission."

Pain also noted that all participants "agreed that the army has fulfilled its mission in Chechnya to a considerable extent and that the armed forces created conditions for a political settlement."

Informed sources in the Kremlin also confirmed that mediators will change at various points of the negotiating process.

The most probable candidates for mediators are Tatar President Mintimer Shaymiyev and Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev. Yeltsin has also mentioned the possibility of inviting one of the Middle East sheiks to mediate the talks.

Russia: Yeltsin Informs Chechnya Commission How Mediators Will Work

MK1104111596 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by Natalya Konstantinova: "Mediators Will Be Admitted in Succession"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A meeting of the State Commission on Control and Settlement of the Situation in the Chechen Republic, steered by its chairman Viktor Chernomyrdin, took place in the Kremlin yesterday. At the suggestion of Boris Yeltsin, who opened the meeting, it was decided to make Emil Pain's group the State Commission's working group. Furthermore, included as members of the commission were representatives of both chambers of the Russian parliament, as well as Doku Zavgayev, Anatoliy Kulikov, Mikhail Barsukov, Vyacheslav Mikhaylov, Oleg Lobov, Yuriy Baturin, Mikhail Kolesnikov, North Caucasus Military District Commander Anatoliy Kvashnin, representatives of the Dagestani side, and other senior officials.

When Boris Yeltsin was about to tell about how the mediators will work "in succession," the press was asked to leave, but at least two [names of the mediators] are known: Nursultan Nazarbayev and Mintimer Shaymiyev. It is still unclear whether the Russian side

will meet the proposals of Dzhokhar Dudayev, who pins hopes on Boris Gromov, Mikhail Gorbachev, and some other military and political figures. There are at least three facts that are obvious and not too advantageous for the Russian side.

First, an absolute absence of any complete information on what is really happening in Chechnya after the promulgation of the presidential plan. Some observers believe that the cable sent by Boris Yeltsin to Dzhokhar Dudayev has not reached him in its genuine form yet. Thus, it follows that the general is getting information from what someone says or from the media, which lack quite complete and reliable information.

The second fact is that no high-ranking people in the Russian Government have thus far gotten in touch with Dudayev directly. To all appearances, the view prevailing in the corridors of power is that it is not right to talk with bandits. It is even more strange that it is not known to what address telegrams are being sent.

Third and last. It is noticeable that Boris Yeltsin does not quite have all the necessary information. At any rate, when military operations were still in full swing, the president stated on more than one occasion that there were none and could not be any.

Your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent got in touch with Doku Zavgayev right after the meeting and asked him to describe its results. Zavgayev explained that the commission agreed to continue talks at all levels, to further expand "peace zones," to continue under the auspices of Viktor Chernomyrdin to fund rebuilding efforts, and to create jobs in the republic. Zavgayev vouched that, according to available information from military sources in Chechnya, "there has been no shooting today, planes did not fly, and one can believe this," [passage omitted]

Russia: Shaymiyev Envoy Arranging Contacts With Dudayev

LD1104100396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0956 GMT 11 Apr 96

[By Artem Protasenko and Vadim Polyakov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 11 (Itar-Tass) — An envoy of President of Tatarstan Mintimer Shaymiyev is now working to "arrange contacts with Dzhokhar Dudayev," Russian Minister of Nationalities and Federative Relations Vyacheslav Mikhaylov told Itar-Tass today.

The president of Tatarstan is regarded as the most likely figure to mediate talks between Moscow and Dudayev.

Observers say that Tatarstan, a Muslim republic located in the middle Volga region, is thought capable of finding a common language with the Chechen Muslims whose rhetoric is often based on Islam. In addition, Mintimer Shaymiyev was the first local leader to sign an agreement with Moscow on more considerable autonomy in the federation than had ever been dreamt possible in the Soviet era.

One of the key issues in the dispute between Moscow and Dudayev is the Chechen republic's new status.

A go-ahead to attempts to arrange direct dialogue between central federal authorities and separatist Dudayev was given by President Yeltsin for the first time in his recent appearance on television with a peace plan for Chechnya.

As large-scale army operations are subsiding in the North Caucasus rebel republic, more and more people offer to mediate talks with the Chechen separatist leader, Dzhokhar Dudayev who has been opposing federal security forces for close to a year and a half.

**Russia: Tatarstan Official Denies
Shaymiyev-Dudayev Phone Conversation**

LD1004175996 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1655 GMT 10 Apr 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Anchikov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 10 Apr (Itar-Tass) — Timur Akulov, director of the foreign affairs department of Tatarstan, today denied rumors that Tatarstan President Mintimer Shaymiyev, who is on holiday in the United Arab Emirates, had had a telephone conversation with Dzhokhar Dudayev.

"Nothing of the kind occurred or was planned," Timur Akulov said to an ITAR-TASS correspondent. On Tuesday the director of Tatarstan's foreign affairs department denied a claim by INTERFAX that Mintimer Shaymiyev was about to make contact with the leader of the Chechen separatists.

**Russia: Zavgayev Welcomes Kremlin Dialogue
With Dudayev**

LD1004161796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1502 GMT 10 Apr 96

[By Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 10 (Iar-Tass) — Moscow-backed head of the Chechen Republic Doku Zavgayev on Wednesday told journalists after the meeting of the State Commission on Chechnya he would welcome Kremlin's dialogue with separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev through mediators.

"If they result in at least a small step forward in the cause of sparing human lives, such talks have to be conducted," he emphasized.

The Chechen leader informed reporters that a special commission for the release of hostages has been set up in the republic with the republican government performing a daily work in this respect. About 100 hostages have been released this year, he said.

Head of the Chechen republic said that today's meeting of the commission also discussed the financing of new jobs creation in Chechnya, as well as restoration of municipal facilities and industrial enterprises.

The next meeting of the state commission on Chechnya is scheduled for Tuesday.

**Russia: Interior Troops Commander Views Yeltsin
Chechnya Plan**

LD1104105596 Moscow INTERFAX in English
0926 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 11 (Interfax) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin's peace plan for Chechnya is "the best way to avoid unnecessary blood," declared General Anatoliy Shkirko, the Russian interior troops commander, stressing the need to use arms against armed gangs in Chechnya and anywhere else in Russia.

"This business must not be left undone," Shkirko said, commenting on the clashes with separatists still under way in southern Chechnya. If the militants do not lay down guns, they will be "crushed," the general warned, adding that tension still remains at Bamut, Stary Achkhoy, Komsomolskoye, Alkhaurovo, and Goyskoye.

In line with Yeltsin's decree, federal troops have stopped fighting, only pursuing special operations if necessary, Shkirko declared.

**Russia: Ten People Reportedly Killed in Attempt
on Maskhadov**

LD1004213596 Moscow NTV in Russian
1800 GMT 10 Apr 96

[From the "Segodnya" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Information agencies reported today that 10 people were killed in an attempt on the life of Aslan Maskhadov, chief of Dzhokhar Dudayev's staff. A bomb exploded in the settlement of Tsotsin-Yurt to the southeast of Grozny under a platform, from which Maskhadov was supposed to deliver an address.

Mourning ceremonies were planned in the settlement on the occasion of the funeral of Dudayev's men. It is thought that the explosion occurred ahead of schedule and Maskhadov was not hurt.

One thing is interesting: the military claim that they have blockaded the remains of the Dudayev's detachments in the south of Chechnya but the village of Tsotsin-Yurt is much further to the north, just 10 km from Grozny.

So, as before, Chechen commanders are still moving about Chechnya freely.

Dudayev's men claim that the Russian military are behind today's attempt on the life of Maskhadov.

Other observers speak of possible internal feuding among the Chechen separatists. [video shows picture of Maskhadov and map of area]

Russia: Grachev Wants Contract Soldiers To Man Chechnya Combat Units

MK1104110896 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 11 Apr 96 p 3

[POSTFACTUM report: "Grachev Chooses Contract-Based Service"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, Colonel General Vyacheslav Zhirebtsov, chief of the Main Organization-Mobilization Directorate and deputy chief of the General Staff, announced that the defense minister has set the task of manning all units participating in combat operations in Chechnya entirely with contract soldiers. In Zhirebtsov's words, contract soldiers in Chechnya already constitute about 70 percent of the personnel. At the moment there are 270,000 contract soldiers serving in Russia's armed forces, with some 100,000 of them being women, who are mainly cooks and nurses. The 201st Motorized Rifle Division in Tajikistan and the peacekeeping contingent in Yugoslavia are manned 100 percent by contract soldiers.

Russia: Kulikov: Army, Police Units To Leave Chechnya by May

LD1104105096 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0926 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SOCHI, April 11 (Interfax) — Russia's Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov told Interfax that 14 Russian army and police units will be moved out of the security and peace zones in Chechnya by next month.

"Troops will leave, depending on the situation in Chechnya," Kulikov said, adding that "unilateral reduction in federal forces' activity in Chechnya has not been recip-

rocated by a ceasefire on the part of Dudayev's illegal armed units."

Militants under Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev are continuing active resistance in Chechnya's southern and south-eastern areas, Kulikov said. He cited evidence that all rebel operations have been "carefully planned" and that Dudayev's army includes mercenaries, foreign experts, and a "guard," which has gained experience through fighting against federal troops in Chechnya. The strongholds set up in hardly accessible mountainous areas of Chechnya enable rebels to resist federal troops for a long time, Kulikov said.

To prove that, he quoted an instruction to Chechen field commanders as ordering "the delivery of massive strikes on troops during their withdrawal, the launch of attacks on predesignated areas in a bid to destroy the local governing bodies, advocates of Zavgayev and Russia and interior bodies in these areas and get down to setting up domestic organs of power."

Of an estimated 380 Chechen communities, more than 170 have signed peace accords, Kulikov said, stating with regret that "in many of these settlements, the negotiating and disarmament processes have been a sham."

If tension builds up sharply in Chechnya again, part of the federal troops permanently based in areas bordering with Chechnya will be brought into the republic, Kulikov said.

Russia: Air Force Chief Denies Bombing of Chechen Villages

LD1004172596 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 10 Apr 96

[From the "Segodnya" news cast]

[FBIS Translated Text] The commander in chief of the Russian Air Force bears complete responsibility for what is being done in the skies over the North Caucasus by Russian military pilots.

Colonel General Petr Deynekin, the commander-in-chief himself, doctor of technical sciences, made this statement today at a news conference at the INTERFAX information agency. Incidentally, everything the commander in chief said evidently convinced journalists that Deynekin on the whole has nothing to answer to anyone for. Petr Deynekin said Russian pilots did not bomb villages in Chechnya.

[begin Deynekin recording] The Russian Air Force and the ground forces aviation did not bomb Katyr-Yurt or Shalazi, the latter twice, nor any other villages, nor did they plan to bomb them. We carried out bombing raids

on strong points, camps, depots, bases, defense areas of bandit formations. [end recording]

Deynekin said that statements by some mass media and by alleged eyewitnesses about the recent raid on the village of Shalazhi were based on the actions of saboteurs and provocateurs.

Deynekin said that the nature of the destruction and the craters caused by the blast in that settlement bore witness to the fact that a different type of shells had exploded on the territory of the village and the purpose of such an act was to accuse military pilots of carrying out bombing raids on the homes of peaceful citizens.

Petr Deynekin even read out excerpts from radio intercepts in the possession of the military. If one is to believe the conversations between Chechen commanders, Dudayev's supporters have several other shells which may be exploded in villages.

[begin Deynekin recording] On the 9th: Bone [Russian: mosoi], location unidentified, to Hurricane One, Starry Achkoy:

Hurricane — "What about the depth bombs?"

Bone — "Nothing so far!"

Hurricane — "It will be delivered to the right Russian address!" [end recording]

A journalist asked Deynekin to describe Dudayev as a former subordinate of his. Petr Deynekin said that he had not drunk vodka with Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Russia: Azeri Ambassador Denies Help to Chechen Rebels

LD1004184896 Moscow NTV in Russian
1500 GMT 10 Apr 96

[Video report from "Segodnya" newscast presented by Aleksey Tereschenko]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Tereschenko] The Azeri Ambassador to Russia, Ramiz Rizayev, convened journalists today to put an end to what he considered to be unobjective reports in the mass media about Azerbaijan's participation in the Chechen war.

[Rizayev] On behalf of the leadership of the republic, I am empowered to issue a resolute protest against the intentions and the actions of individual Russian mass media — we will not hide which forces are behind them — and say that Azerbaijan has never taken part in, is not taking part in, nor will ever take part in any military actions in Chechnya.

[Unidentified correspondent] Anton Surikov, an expert at the institute of defence research, came in for criticism in particular. A few days ago he appeared on a number of television channels and said that there were aerodromes in Azeri territory at which [Dzhokhar] Dudayev's airplanes were based. A press release to journalists also mentioned Maksim Glikin, who in January published in OBSHCAYA GAZETA an article called "The secret corpses of the Gray Wolves." The embassy spokesmen thought that Glikin had accused Azerbaijan of providing the Dudayev regime with arms on a broad scale. Unfortunately, in denying the reports in the mass media, Ramiz Rizayev did not give any new facts which could help to establish the truth.

[Rizayev] There are SU-24 [fighters] but there are so few of them. The budget does not allow any more. I cannot tell you how many of them there are but there are very few of them.

[Correspondent] Rezayev admitted that there is illegal infiltration into Chechnya across the Azerbaijan-Dagestani frontier but he stressed that this has nothing to do with his state. The ambassador invited journalists to visit Azerbaijan and to see all this for themselves.

Azerbaijani officials continue to deny they had anything at all to do with the bombing of Chechen villages. However, they do admit that unofficial private contacts with Dudayev's men could take place.

Aleksey Tereschenko, Aleksandr Dobryzhynskiy, NTV.

Russia: Government Auditors Reveal 1995 Spending in Chechnya

MK1004103996 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY
KOMSOMOLET in Russian 10 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by Yuliya Kalinina: "The Military Is Fighting on Its Own Wages. Some 3 Trillion Rubles Worth of Arms Lost in Chechnya"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The war in Chechnya is costly. It is believed that the IMF's \$9 billion loan is approximately equal to the cost of military operations and the subsequent rebuilding of the populated areas destroyed. In 1995 alone, 5.71 trillion rubles was spent on maintenance of the armed contingent in Chechnya. The actual breakdown of this sum was established by the Russian Federation Accounting Chamber that examined the "execution of the federal budget insofar as it refers to financing Defense Ministry expenditures in Chechnya."

[Defense Ministry expenditures in Chechnya in 1995 (in billions of rubles)]

Food	103.1
Fuel	613.2
Equipment	256
Medical services	59
Per diem field allowances	266.4
Insurance premiums	34.3
Accommodation	33.5
Maintenance of arms and equipment	775
Troop transportation	220.3
Veterinary service	0.6
Additional outlays	43
Other expenses	239
Capital inputs	249
Acquisition of arms and military equipment	2,840

[Table totals 5,732.4 trillion rubles. Figures as published.]

The table graphically shows the Defense Ministry expenditures for the maintenance of armed units in Chechnya in 1995. This is only what was spent by the military. It does not include expenditures by the Internal Affairs Ministry, the Federal Border Service, the Federal Government Communications and Information Agency [FAPSI], the Federal Security Service [FSB], and the Emergency Situations Ministry's civil defense units, although it is quite clear that these services also produced a hefty bill to foot.

An incredible sum was spent on "replenishing arms and military equipment irretrievably lost or transferred to other agencies" — this is how the Accounting Chamber report interpreted the entry "acquisition of arms and military equipment." This is more than all the other expenditures taken together. Frankly speaking, I do not

even know how to comment on this: Either: "Look at how much of our armor the Chechens have burned!" or "Look at how much weaponry we have sold to the Chechens!" It would, of course, be interesting to know how much the Chechens themselves have spent for these purposes — simply to make a comparison — but this, unfortunately, is impossible.

All in all, Defense Ministry expenditures on military operations in the Chechen Republic in 1995 amounted to 5.71 trillion rubles.

The ministry's wage debt to military and civilian personnel as of January 1996 stood at 4.3 trillion rubles. In other words, military servicemen, with their inherent generosity, lent the state the lion's share of the funds necessary to restore the constitutional order in Chechnya.

**CIS: Chernomyrdin, CIS Executive Secretary
Discuss Integration**

*LD1104105896 Moscow Russian Television Network
in Russian 1100 GMT 11 Apr 96*

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Viktor Chernomyrdin met Ivan Korotchenya, executive secretary of the Commonwealth of the Independent States, on 11 April. They revised the agenda of tomorrow's meeting of the CIS council of the heads of governments. They also discussed a long-term plan for the development of the CIS integration for the next two years.

**CIS: CIS Official Sees Acceleration of Military
Integration**

*MK1004112096 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI
in Russian*

No. 14, 7-14 Apr 96 (signed to press 8 Apr 1996) p 10

[Commentary by Leonid Ivashov, secretary of CIS Council of Defense Ministers, recorded by Viktor Ivanov: "Defense Industry Wants To Unite"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Military integration of CIS-member countries proceeds under the Collective Security Treaty signed in Tashkent in 1992. The treaty was to be in force for five years. Does this mean the Commonwealth-member countries will end up without a collective security mechanism a year from now? Lieutenant General Leonid Ivashov, secretary of the CIS-member states' Council of Defense Ministers, comments on the situation.

The Council of Defense Ministers will obviously not only propose that the treaty be extended, but it will also update some of its points. For example, the specific commitments of parties to the treaty in the event of military aggression against one of the CIS countries. The Council of Defense Ministers passes and puts before the Council of Heads of States specific solutions promoting military integration rather than high-sounding political documents. One example is a plan for reinstating the single air defense system.

Here is what gives hope. There was no political rhetoric at the last meeting of the Council of [Defense] Ministers. The very tenor of discussion was different. The addresses of many ministers during previous meetings were much too official: "I declare the position of my state." Such turns of speech are things of the past now, and they [ministers] spoke about the matters at hand.

In particular, the meeting looked at providing housing for servicemen as well as persons discharged from military service into the reserves. The question has

been on the agenda for two years and the majority of ministers were not supportive of the idea. They did not want housing for Russian-speaking [non-Russian] officers to be built in Russia, hoping that the "housing issue" would tie the officers to national [non-Russian] armies. The document was signed at the last meeting. The same conference passed a decision on improving the system of the training of military personnel for the Commonwealth.

A document concerning a Committee of Chiefs of Staff was considered for the third time. It was also signed unanimously.

Skeptics say today that it would take whopping sums to reinstate the air defense system, whereas Russia does not have money enough even to support its own army; for which reason, they say, the decisions passed will remain on paper.

Defense does cost a lot. But collective security is precisely about cutting the cost. Representatives of Russia's military-industrial complex are working on the concept of it, which will later be expanded into an agreement on uniting within the CIS framework defense-related enterprises and banking structures. An integrated system of comprehensive support for the armed forces will cut overall costs by 30 percent. Many members of the Commonwealth are interested in such cooperation. For example, Tajikistan has unique rocket technology and nuclear warhead complexes. But they were neglected. Now they are being brought back to life: Why build more industrial complexes or buy technical equipment when everything stands there ready? One only has to bring back the specialists and inject some financial resources. There are areas of military cooperation that call for no outlays. For example, the system of mutual warning in the integrated air defense system.

CIS: ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 11 Apr

*LD1104052796 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0444 GMT 11 Apr 96*

["Press Review" — ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW April 11 (Itar-Tass) — Follows a review of Thursday's Moscow-based Russian newspapers dated April 11.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA on Russia's Security Council's Wednesday meeting, which dealt with preparations for a Moscow G-8 summit on nuclear safety issues.

The newspaper runs an account of the Council's meeting quoting in its headline the remark by President Boris Yeltsin that Russia makes serious efforts towards ensuring the safety of nuclear power engineering.

IZVESTIYA carries the text of Boris Yeltsin's remarks made at the Council's meeting.

IZVESTIYA on an increase in TB incidence in Russia.

The newspaper runs data, which have been provided by the Ministry of Health and the Medical Industry and the State Committee for Sanitary and Epidemiological Supervision and which have not yet been published anywhere. The data have it that over the past year the incidence of tuberculosis in Russia has increased by 10 per cent.

"Already now mortality rate among those ill with the long-forgotten consumption (tuberculosis of the lungs) in Russia is the most critical one in Europe," the newspaper notes.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on presidential elections.

"The one who has launched reforms in Russia should carry them on" is the headline of an article on the subject by Mayor Yuri Luzhkov of Moscow.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA on the 35th anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's space flight.

"Thirty-five years ago, on April 12, 1961, the whole world was staggered to hear the news about man's first-ever space flight," the newspaper points out.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA carries an interview with Vladimir Ivanov, Commander of Russia's Military Space Forces, who hails the military specialists' contribution to national cosmonautics. "Russia has been, is and will remain a great space-faring power," Ivanov states.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA comments on the complex situation on the Korean peninsula.

"Russia, the United States and other countries seek to prevent an eruption of the Korean volcano," points an article to this effect. The author of the commentary draws attention to the visit of a Russian delegation, led by Vice-Premier Vitaly Ignatenko, to North Korea.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA on the Russian army's manning problem.

"Only 21 percent of draft-age citizens are being drafted into the army. Another 15.5 percent will be exempt from serving in the army for health reasons and approximately two percent of young men are not to be drafted because they committed grave crimes," the newspaper writes in an article about the 1996 drafting campaign.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on a probable cause of the Chernobyl disaster.

The newspaper carries an article about a version suggested by a group of scientists from the O.Yu. Schmidt Joint Institute of the Physics of the Earth why the Chernobyl disaster happened. The scientists do not rule it out that the tragedy was the consequence of an earthquake.

Yevgeniy Barkovskiy, a staff member of the Institute, believes, in particular, that the fate of the nuclear power station itself was "predetermined as far back as in 1971 when the station's construction was started without proper geological and geophysical surveys."

Russia: Yeltsin To Visit China 24-26 Apr

LD1004113096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1056 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 10 (Itar-Tass) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin will pay a state visit to China at the invitation of China's chairman Jiang Zemin from April 24-26, the presidential press service announced today.

The Russian President intends to discuss bilateral relations and major international issues during his meetings and talks with the Chinese leaders.

The two countries are due to sign a number of agreements, including a joint declaration and a number of accords in the economic and commercial fields.

They are also expected to sign agreements on interaction in power engineering, including nuclear power engineering, space research and environmental protection.

A quintilateral agreement on confidence-building in the military field on the borders with China will be signed in Shanghai, where the Russian President will arrive on April 26.

The agreement will be signed along with Yeltsin by Jiang Zemin and the heads of state of Kazakhstan, Kirghizia and Tajikistan, the press service of the Russian President reported.

Russia: Yeltsin, Clinton Discuss Upcoming G-8 Summit by Phone

LD0904162896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1612 GMT 9 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 9 (Itar-Tass) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin and U.S. President Bill Clinton had a telephone conversation on Tuesday, the presidential press service said.

During the conversation, the two presidents discussed preparations for the upcoming summit meeting of G-8 countries on nuclear security due to be held in Moscow on April 19-20.

In this connection, Yeltsin and Clinton exchanged on the nuclear test ban [sentence as received].

The two presidents also discussed bilateral relations, European security and topics of a working Russian-American summit meeting scheduled to be held in Moscow after the conference of the "political G-8," the press service said.

Russia: Yeltsin To Adopt 'Appropriate Tone' in G-8 Address

LD1004102596 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1001 GMT 10 Apr 96

[By Andrey Surzhanskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 10 (Itar-Tass) — The Moscow nuclear security summit on April 19 and 20 will be held for the first time as a Group of Eight meeting, instead of the "seven plus one" format which was used to describe the earlier summits of the world's industrialised countries in which Russia participated, Russian President Boris Yeltsin said in the opening address to the country's Security Council here today.

Yeltsin said however that it was too early to regard the group as a fully-fledged "Group of Eight," and added that the question would probably be resolved in Lyon at the end of June.

Preparations for the nuclear security summit have entered the home stretch, the President said. He told the Russian Security Council which met today to discuss the coming summit that the G-8 forum will have two co-chairmen — Yeltsin himself and French President Jacques Chirac.

Yeltsin said he will open the summit as the head of state of the host country. He told the Security Council he would "set the appropriate tone" to the G-8 summit in his opening speech.

Russia: 'Retaliatory' Arguments Prepared for Nuclear Summit

MK0904125496 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA
in Russian 9 Apr 96 p 2

[Report by Andrey Vaganov: "Uranium and Plutonium Being Stolen Around the World"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the wake of the USSR's disintegration, Russia has come under unprecedented pressure from leading Western states in the area of control over fissionable materials and guarantees of their safe handling. The campaign reached an apex when special services of the FRG organized in August 1994 a scandal involving the seizure at Munich airport of plutonium samples allegedly stolen from a Russian fuel-and-energy complex facility.

The vector [as published] of this pressure, according to specialists and chiefs of the Russian Federation Ministry of Atomic Energy and the Defense Ministry, is absolutely obvious: to charge Russia with the fact that the principle source of special nuclear materials on the

world "black market" are facilities of its nuclear complex. Barring Russia, the biggest producer of fissionable materials, from the world nuclear fuel markets is the ultimate objective pursued by the West.

Although the very fact of the "black market's" existence is far from being indisputable and is denied by many Western experts (by IAEA Director General Hans Blix), there were some grounds for accusing our country of an insufficiently reliable system of handling radioactive materials. For example, Sergey Adamchik, chief of the Department for the Supervision of Nuclear and Radiation Safety of AES's [atomic power stations] of the Russian Federation State Committee for the Supervision of Nuclear and Radiation Safety, stated in a conversation with your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent: "In the past, the main element of such a system (physical protection of AES's — A.V.) was a man with a gun plus technical facilities [in the form of] fences, alarm systems, and so on. One of the problems we face today is to design state standards (with regard to such systems — A.V.)."

It is quite probable that the meeting of the heads of the G-7 and Russia opening in Moscow on 19 April and specially devoted to nuclear safety will have as one of the most important issues the correspondence of Russia's system of keeping tabs on fissionable materials with international standards. However, the responsible Russian departments and agencies have prepared a "retaliatory blow." In particular, as your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent has learned, they have compiled a special position paper "On Violations of the Control Regime at Facilities of the United States' Nuclear Complex." This document, for example, notes that "according to the U.S. Energy Department, 2,108 violations in this field were recorded at 39 facilities during 1989 and nine months of 1990 alone. Of this number, 13 percent (274 cases) involved direct violations of protection and secrecy rules, 38 percent (800 cases) involved incomplete following of these rules, with the rest being minor shortcomings."

The greatest number of violations take place at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, the plutonium plant in Rocky Flats (Colorado), the Y-12 plant in Oak Ridge (Tennessee), and the Pantex assembly plant (Amarillo, Texas).

Moreover, the U.S. Congress's financial control administration [as translated from the Russian], which conducted an analysis of the state of the systems that provide protection and guarantee secrecy at the country's defense-related nuclear industry facilities, concluded that not all violations at the above facilities go on record.

The authors of the position paper cited specially stress that information on concrete cases of stealing weapons-grade fissionable materials in the United States is restricted. This, they say, makes it possible to hype the version about the Russian roots of the "black market" for nuclear materials. In the meantime, not all is well in this field in the United States itself.

Information on discovered cases of stealing and the loss of nuclear materials was repeatedly sent to the U.S. energy secretary in 1992 and 1993. Among these cases there are some worthy of O. Henry's pen.

For example, in May of 1992, "a private individual brought to the Fermi Laboratory 7.3 kg of depleted uranium, saying the uranium had been inherited from his father, who had worked for the Fermi Laboratory and the Argonne National Laboratory.

"Fifteen lead containers with radioactive substances (possibly plutonium and strontium-90) were discovered in the foundation of the house where a recently deceased scientist who worked on the Manhattan Project in Los Alamos had lived."

In general, citing independent experts, the American press has reported that assessing the precise quantity of plutonium in the technological processes of production, extraction, and purification has always presented a considerable technical problem, and the error may reach 10 percent. U.S. Energy Secretary Hazel R. O'Leary stated in February of 1996 that the "6,050 pounds of plutonium unaccounted for throughout the entire United States also appears to be a counting error rather than a security problem."

Be that as it may, the fact is that Russia is actively preparing its trump cards for the April summit in Moscow. It is very probable that the West will not be outdone. This will hardly be another spiral in the plutonium scandal — there is too little time for preparing it, but one can quite expect something of the kind.

Russia: Army Spokesman Denies Charge of 'Wrecking' Post-COCOM Forum

MM1004114896 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 10 Apr 96 p 7

[Report by Anatoliy Kurganov: "Hofburg Fiasco"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vienna's Hofburg Palace, where consensus has often been achieved on particularly important peace problems, this time failed to justify its reputation.

This was attested by the unsuccessful round of talks on replacing the Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls [COCOM] with a new organization.

We would recall that COCOM was set up 47 years ago to prevent leaks of strategically important military or dual-use goods and technologies from the West to the socialist countries. The Community [Sodruzhestvo; possibly referring to the "socialist community," or misprint for "Soyuz," "Union"] has collapsed, but COCOM continues to exist. Although numerous attempts have been made to transform the organization. For instance, the efforts of the "Wassenaar Agreement" — a group of 31 countries — are well known. They would like to lay down principles which would prevent countries such as Iran, Iraq, and North Korea from having access to international arms markets. The Hofburg meeting was designed to discuss not only the main avenues for cooperation between the participant countries, but also to ratify a document setting out the "priority elements of the proposed regime." It backfired — Russia was the only country to refuse to provide information on sales of technology intended for civil use but capable of also being used for arms production.

The United States was the most disappointed. "We involved the Russians in the implementation of the 'Wassenaar Agreement,'" Lynn Davis, under secretary of state for arms control and international security, noted, "as an equal partner. We were counting on Russia shouldering an equal responsibility in respect of exchanges of information of decisive importance for this regime. But...."

Equal partnership and information exchange is all very well. But in their quest to replace COCOM the Western powers in Vienna also displayed diktat, which led to a corresponding reaction.

The only thing that was agreed upon in the Hofburg was that there should be another meeting in July — most probably in Vienna — to make another attempt.

Stop Press

During the Vienna talks on the creation of a new body to monitor arms exports in place of COCOM, the Russian delegation upheld the country's interests and therefore did not make concessions liable to damage business cooperation with other countries in the military-technical sphere. Consequently, it is groundless to accuse Russia of wrecking the meeting. This was stated by a spokesman for the Russian Armed Forces General Staff.

Russia: NATO 'Aims' in East Europe Pondered
MM1004135296 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
3 Apr 96 p 3

[Article by Richard Ovinnikov: "Specialists in...Interference. New Phase of Old Policy"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] What is currently taking place in the West cannot but raise questions. Influential circles there have been gripped by an "interventionist" fervor. In their opinion, and in the wake of the USSR's collapse, the time has come for the "expansion of democracy." They wish to make interference — even armed interference — into other countries' internal affairs an instrument in this global onslaught, especially with regard to noncompliant parties. In short, what we are talking about is intervention.

This illness is, strictly speaking, nothing new in itself. It just takes on a new appearance by mutating.

The United States Acting as Policeman Single-Handedly

The course of action taken by the United States in the Western hemisphere is a classic example of interventionist behavior. For more than a century now governments have been unceremoniously deposed, pro-U.S. regimes have been installed, and conditions designed to enslave have been imposed in the countries of Latin America. If I may say so, democracy has been implanted with fire and sword. [passage omitted]

The Metamorphosis of the UN "Blue Helmets"

It was decided to use UN peacekeeping operations as a means of camouflaging and advancing the West's common interests. Until then the USSR's status as a superpower and permanent member of the Security Council made it impossible for peacekeeping operations to be transformed in such a manner. However, a qualitative barrier was crossed with the USSR's weakening and subsequent collapse. The new Russian authorities were being led around by the nose by those they had come to call their "allies" and nodded through the Council any operations that the latter deemed necessary. The West accordingly got an opportunity to completely change its nature. From being fairly objective and impartial operations designed to defend the interests of small countries, the peacekeeping operations were transformed into deliberately one-sided and biased operations. [passage omitted]

However, the series of peacekeeping operations undertaken since 1992 on behalf of the United Nations in the former Yugoslavia, first and foremost in Bosnia and

Herzegovina, may have much further reaching consequences for the world at large. The forces there quickly rose to 35,000 men — a figure that is unprecedented in the United Nations' history. From the very beginning the contingents from the NATO countries set the tone among them.

A complete transformation of these operations began in mid-1993. Cooperation between the UN Secretariat and the NATO military bloc developed with the acquiescence of the Russian authorities in order to achieve NATO's aims in Bosnia. On 14 June of that year, the UN Security Council adopted the abhorrent resolution — No. 836 — with the official blessing of Moscow. It essentially gave the North Atlantic alliance a free hand to carry out air strikes on Bosnia. After this, the Security Council lost all control over the development of events. NATO began to run the show in the former Republic of Yugoslavia, and what a bloody show it is.

What happened is well known. NATO took on the role of lawmaker, determining which of the sides should receive outside support in a purely internal conflict. In this way, NATO became an active participant in the bloodshed in Bosnia. The bloc unflinchingly closed its eyes to aggressive acts by the Croats and the Muslims, the unleashing of ethnic cleansing, and the seizure of territory. It was only the local Serbs who were subjected to periodic bombings so that they did not oppose the humiliating conditions for peace. Built on such a blatantly unfair base, the Dayton peace is unlikely to last long. But having once imposed it under the UN banner, NATO decided to take off its mask. A 60,000-strong NATO occupation force was sent to Bosnia. By so doing a dangerous precedent has been set.

"Slavicization" of War in Bosnia

The time has come to say that Yugoslavia has become a proving ground. A proving ground to test out the United States' and NATO's interventionist policy at a qualitatively new stage in world history. To be precise — during the period following the collapse of the Warsaw Pact and subsequently of the USSR, and the transformation of the West into a world hegemony. [passage omitted]

How in particular did Yugoslavia attract to itself such rapt attention? The new U.S. Administration's Secretary of State W. Christopher gave a reply. In February 1993, he announced that Yugoslavia is an "early and critical test" of how the problem of "ethnic and religious minorities" should be resolved in the world after the Cold War.

The basis of this U.S. and Western policy was all in all not slow to emerge. It lay not in extinguishing internal

ethnic discord and conflicts, but on the contrary in inflaming and using them in all possible ways, especially in multiethnic countries. The United States developed this tactic of pitting peoples or even sections of one people against each other back in the days of Vietnam. There it received the name of "Vietnamization." Today in Yugoslavia a version of this same policy — "Slavicization" of military operations — has been allowed to emerge. With such an aim, the Croat Slavs and the Bosnian Slavs (Catholics and Muslims) have been set against the Serb Slavs (Orthodox). But the crowning achievement of this policy there has been the single regime of occupation for all of them, that was established by the NATO bloc.

NATO Diktat for Slavs?

The very fact that the North Atlantic alliance has gained such experience in the former Yugoslavia cannot but make you pause for thought. It seems that they want to continue to use this precedent for the successful division of the Slav peoples. For the sake of establishing foreign control, of course. But where specifically? First and foremost across the similar but wider expanses of East Europe and those CIS countries where Slavs predominate.

This is the main direction in which East Europe is headed. The fate that awaits it is to be swallowed up by NATO. But to achieve this, resistance must be smashed in advance. Accordingly, the ethnic tensions and potential conflicts existing in this region are already being studied feverishly and analyzed in the bloc's structures. NATO officials do not bat an eyelid when they attribute this interest to a desire to avert such problems. Only who will believe them in the wake of Yugoslavia's tragic fate?

In any case, through their diligence, the NATO specialists have actually worked out that in East Europe there are "12 pairs" of states, between which disputes might flare up due to outbreaks of ethnic strife or territorial problems. They have singled out such "pairs" as Hungary and Romania, Hungary and Slovakia, and Hungary and Serbia. Also Bulgaria and Turkey, Bulgaria and Romania, Bulgaria and Serbia, plus Albania and Serbia, and Greece and Macedonia. And finally Poland and Belarus, Poland and Ukraine, Poland and Lithuania, and also Moldova and Romania. What a seductive range of possibilities to play on all these conflicts!

The other side of the coin is the North Atlantic alliance's aim to have NATO also arbitrate in the matter of the infringement of the interests of the Russian-speaking population in the Baltic countries.

So, on the basis of the precedent set by Yugoslavia, ways and means for foreign involvement in the destinies of the Slav peoples are under intensive scrutiny today. The final aims of this intervention are clear from the example of Yugoslavia. The opportunities for putting them into practice in turn depend on the degree to which the Slavs are divided and set against each another.

Have we not learned anything from life?

**Russia: Zhirinovskiy Sees Eastern Expansion
Destroying NATO**

AU1004164496 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak
10 Apr 96 pp 1, 10

[Interview with Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, by Feliks Alekseev in Moscow; date not given: "Just Join NATO!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vladimir Zhirinovskiy (49), leader of the ultranationalist Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, is the third person, after Boris Yeltsin and Gennadiy Zyuganov, to submit a petition with the requisite million signatures to the Central Election Commission and, as a result, he has been officially registered as another candidate for the presidential elections in June. On this occasion, Zhirinovskiy compared the Russian pre-election scene to the famous painting The Three Russian Knights [Tri Bogatyrya]. This trio of heroes standing at the crossroads consists, in his view, of the current president, the communist leader, and himself, Vladimir Volfovich Zhirinovskiy, who observed that in the struggle for the presidential post only these "heroes" stand a chance and drew particular attention in this interview for PRAVDA with his original views on NATO.

[Alekseev] All the presidential candidates are in complete agreement over their rejection of NATO's eastward expansion. Is your stance on this issue any different from the others'?

[Zhirinovskiy] Let them all join NATO! It will be only to our advantage. Join it and cause this organization to disintegrate! If you join NATO, you will be feeding its army and polishing the military and officers' boots, and they will be going out with your girls. Social tensions in your region will grow. It is to our advantage if NATO advances into the countries of the former Warsaw Pact and into the Baltic region. To Slovakia as well. Just let them come.

[Alekseev] You cannot be serious that you would be pleased if Slovakia, for instance, joined NATO.

[Zhirinovskiy] Why not? NATO will lose its strength in the expansion. Just let it spread all over Europe. It will be dispersed in the space: One soldier for every square kilometer. Of course, the natives will ply them with

drink and they will go out with local girls. The NATO army is strong, when concentrated in Germany. When it is spread out, it will vanish. Therefore, we should not fear NATO expansion. Napoleon lost the war in the same manner, when he spread his army over the vast Russian land. All his plans failed as a result. He should have stayed in Europe rather than stumbling on. NATO is now travelling along the same path as Napoleon and Hitler. So, let them all join: Romanians, Slovaks, Poles.... At least they will learn what "NATO-style" democracy is. No one will chat with them for long. U.S. soldiers raped a 12-year-old Japanese girl. Soviet soldiers never did anything like that. NATO soldiers, however, will have no restraints. Slovaks, Romanians, and others will learn what the NATO army is, just as the Armenians learned about the Turkish Army when it committed arson, looting, and rape. If you do not want to learn from history, learn democracy from your own experience. You will then be begging for help, but in vain. I am telling you this beforehand. We will not help the Slovaks, the Czechs, the Romanians, the Georgians, or the Azerbaijanis. You will end up with the North-Atlantic-Turkish democracy and do not expect any help!

**Russia: Moscow Not Seeking Baltic Integration Into
CIS**

LD0904170796 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1154 GMT 9 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Apr 9 (Interfax) — Moscow does not plan to include Baltic countries in integration processes like those developing in the framework of the CIS, the chief of the Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia department of Russia's Foreign Ministry told Interfax.

"It is obvious that this involves different categories of states," Sergey Prikhodko said.

Rather, Russia "intends to expand economic ties with the Baltic states to the extent of their own willingness to do so," he said.

Moscow believes that what answers to the long-term national security interests of Baltic countries is to establish and strengthen truly neighborly and predictable relations with Russia, not create fresh dividing lines in Europe.

In comments on the Baltic countries' attitude to NATO expansion the diplomat said that Russia "rejects this idea in principle."

"We have no intention of conflicting with anyone or stifling anyone in our friendly embrace," the diplomat said. "But we want our relations with each of the Baltic

states to have truly neighborly, predictable, stable and quiet character."

Recently the collegium of Russia's Foreign Ministry discussed relations with the Baltic countries, Prikhodko said. "We spoke virtually about one thing: what should be done to increase the positive potential where it exists, and remove irritants and painful points," he said.

According to Prikhodko, "the development of ties with the Baltic countries is a top priority in the European direction of Russia's foreign policy."

Russia: Finnish President Sees Finland as EU-Russia 'Bridge'

*MM1004131996 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
9 Apr 96 p 3*

[Report by Marat Zubko: "Finland Likes To Be a Bridge Between the EU and Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Helsinki — Which of two European organizations — NATO or the European Union — must be the first to expand? In an interview with the magazine NORDIKUM President Martti Ahtisaari of Finland voiced the opinion that the European Union should do so first.

For many centuries Suomi was considered a border country: First it was an eastern province of Sweden, then a western part of the Russian Empire. Finland was long regarded as being on the outskirts of Europe, but now, after becoming a full member of the European Union, it finds itself at a crossroads between East and West, between the EU and Russia.

Before speaking of the expansion of NATO or the EU, we must satisfy ourselves that we are all unanimous as to the methods of strengthening security in Europe, Ahtisaari is convinced. In the Finnish president's opinion, the EU decision to attract new members from East Europe is positive. So long as decisions are adopted in the spirit of cooperation, they strengthen peace. "If it is a question of which of these organizations must be the first to expand, in my view it is the EU," he said.

Suomi has a common border with Russia. Finnish ports are taken up with transit shipments between West and East. Numerous projects are currently being prepared. There is active cross-border trade, although the rates of major planned deliveries are over now. More Finns are involved in contacts with Russia than at any time throughout the Soviet period. Finland serves as a bridge between the EU and Russia, the Finnish president added.

Russia: Ministry Declines To Comment on Swiss Expulsion of Diplomat

*MM1004154096 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
11 Apr 96 p 3*

[Report by Maskim Yusin: "Switzerland Expels Russian Diplomat"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For the second time in the last three months the Swiss Government has declared a Russian diplomat persona non grata, ordering him to leave the country immediately.

The statement by the Swiss authorities does not mention a name. It merely says that he occupies the post of first secretary at the Russian Embassy in Bern. Victor Stumpf, a Federal Department of Justice spokesman, told journalists that these harsh measures were adopted because the diplomat was engaged in espionage and had been caught red-handed.

The authorities in the canton of Zurich, business capital of Switzerland, conducted the investigation. This suggests that we could be talking about an attempt to obtain economic information. According to official data, during the period 1985 through 1995 the Swiss Government expelled 77 foreigners on espionage charges.

When it tried to obtain additional information from Russian officials IZVESTIYA encountered a conspiracy of silence. The Foreign Ministry department dealing with Switzerland referred us to the information and press department, citing a new instruction prohibiting ministry staffers from having unauthorized contacts with the press.

Mikhail Demurin, deputy director of the information and press department, said that a special Foreign Ministry statement was in preparation, but the text of it had not yet been approved by the leadership when this edition of the paper went to press. The name of the expelled diplomat is strictly secret. We also failed to get an answer to the question whether the Russian authorities will take retaliatory steps against the Swiss.

At the Russian Embassy in Bern IZVESTIYA was told literally the following: "The announcement of the diplomat's expulsion was made not by us, but by the Swiss authorities. Let them comment on their statement." The Swiss Embassy in Moscow was also unable to provide us with additional information. The diplomat who answered the phone admitted that he had learned of the incident from a Swiss radio report and had not yet received any official documents on the subject.

As for Tatyana Samolis, Foreign Intelligence Service press secretary, she reminded IZVESTIYA of the "golden rule of intelligence services worldwide: not to

comment on whether a particular person belongs to their department."

The previous scandal involving a Russian diplomat in Switzerland occurred on 21 December last year, when an employee of the Geneva mission was expelled from the country. In Soviet times this mission was regarded as a very important KGB and GRU (Main Intelligence Directorate) stronghold in Western Europe. The KGB operation in Geneva was one of the few whose leader was automatically made a general. Mentions of the embassy in Bern in connection with special services' activities were much rarer.

Russia: Official Denies Boxers Sought Asylum in Denmark

LD1004113896 Moscow INFORMATSIONNOYE
AGENTSTVO EKHO MOSKVY in Russian
1000 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Anatoliy Cherkasov, chief of the sports department of the Russian Boxing Federation, in an interview with Ekho Moskvyy radio station, has denied an AFP report that two Russian boxers have requested political asylum in Denmark.

He said that the entire Russian team has returned from the European championships, except for Sergey Karavayev, international class master of sport, who took part in the up to 71 kg weight category.

S. Karavayev was obliged to stay behind in Denmark for another reason: he received an eye injury in a fight with Azerbaijani boxer Izmailov and underwent an operation in a Copenhagen clinic.

A. Cherkasov said that S. Karavayev would return to Moscow in a week's time. Unfortunately, he will not be able to take up boxing again since he will have only 40 per cent sight in the injured eye.

Russia: U.S. Stance on Nuclear Deal With Iran Termed 'Unreasonable'

LD1004131996 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1305 GMT 10 Apr 96

[By Oleg Velichko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 10 (Itar-Tass) - Apart from a nuclear power plant under construction in Bushehr, there are also "other projects in Russian-Iranian cooperation aimed at using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes," Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Albert Chernyshev told Itar-Tass on Wednesday.

However, he did not specify the projects. The construction of the power plant in Bushehr "will not give Iran

the possibilities to use nuclear technologies for military purposes", Chernyshev stressed.

The deputy minister especially emphasized that "under the agreements between Russia and Iran, the nuclear power plant in Bushehr will be operated under international control, including that of the IAEA."

Dwelling on nuclear cooperation between the two countries, Chernyshev said: "On the one hand, Russia does not want that a new nuclear state appear, especially close to its borders, on the other hand, it seeks to make a profit on the project and preserve the market for itself."

He also said that Russia "does not want the isolation of Iran, but the development of a mutually advantageous cooperation."

With this in view, he qualified the US position towards Iran as "unreasonable and isolationist." The USA, as it is known, suspects Iran of attempts to use nuclear technologies for military purposes.

Russia: Russian Pilots Take Refuge at U.S. Embassy in Liberia

LD1104093496 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 0845 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 11 Apr — All the 19 Russians, members of the four crews of a company described as "the 2d Arkhangelsk united air force detachment," who took part in rendering humanitarian assistance to Liberia, have taken refuge on the territory of the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia, Vladimir Myagkov, commercial director of the firm, who was in touch with them by fax during the night, said today.

According to him, our citizens who have been working at an enterprise set up jointly with the U.S. charter company, have in their possession U.S. identity documents [as received], something which gives them certain advantages over other foreigners. All of them were sent to Liberia in February this year to work on the transportation of charity aid and medicine to the Liberian population engulfed by the civil war.

The air detachment has three Mi-8 helicopters and an L-410 aircraft capable of carrying up to 20 people or one and a half tonnes of freight. The pilots have made flights throughout the whole country, landing at the bases of the West African peacekeeping forces in Liberia. In addition to the Arkhangelsk air detachment, other companies are acting jointly with the Russian company. According to unconfirmed reports, as a result of disturbances in the area of Monrovia, a Yak-40 aircraft of one of these organizations was burned, while another aircraft was damaged.

If the situation in the capital sharply deteriorates, the crews of the company from Arkhangelsk will be evacuated with equipments into the capital of the neighboring Sierra Leone — Freetown where one of the bases of the West African peacekeeping force is situated. If there is an emergency, only people will be evacuated. He said, some of the helicopters of the air detachment have been damaged by bullets; however, this will not prevent them from making a 450-km flight.

Russia: Delegation Head Comments on Official Visit to Cuba

LD1104065496 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0523 GMT 11 Apr 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Konstantin Zhukovskiy]

[FBIS Translated Text] Havana, 11 Apr — Cuban Leader Fidel Castro has received a delegation from the Russian Federation State Duma which is here on an official visit. Vitaliy Sevastyanov, head of the Russian delegation, said on 10 April that during the meeting, which lasted more than two hours, they discussed the internal situation in both countries as well as the opportunities for expanding bilateral relations.

The members of the Russian delegation expressed a willingness to render support to Cuba in view of the fresh attacks by the United States.

With regard to the purposes of the visit by the Russian Federation delegation, V. Sevastyanov stressed it is not only of a political nature. It is expected that the efforts of the Duma to expand bilateral economic contacts and promote Russian state and private investment in Cuba's economy will be stepped up.

The Russian Federation State Duma delegation is to end its visit and return home today.

Russia: Military: Russia Has 'Equal Attitude' to South, North Korea

LD1104084696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0838 GMT 11 Apr 96

[By Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 11 (Itar-Tass) — The General Staff of the Russian Armed forces favours the further development of military-technical cooperation with Pyongyang and believes that these traditional ties are no obstacle to the development of similar cooperation with South Korea. Colonel-General Dmitriy Kharchenko, deputy chief of the General Staff and head of the Chief Directorate of the International Military Cooperation, said this to Itar-Tass on Thursday.

He stressed that the tendency to expand and consolidate ties with states that were formerly in the socialist camp meets national interests of Russia and of all countries interested in the consolidation of peace.

Russia is interested in the development of goodneighbourly relations with all countries of the Asia-Pacific region, Kharchenko said, commenting on a visit to North Korea by a Russian governmental delegation led by Deputy Premier Vitaliy Ignatenko. Kharchenko said Russia has an equal attitude to North Korea and South Korea.

Regarding military-technical cooperation with South Korea, Kharchenko said that part of the delivery of Russian arms and military equipment to South Korea is meant to repay debts from the Soviet times, which is in keeping with international rules.

As regards gratis supply of military equipment to any state, Russia cannot afford this and also cannot take such steps in new historic conditions.

Kharchenko believes it would be expedient to hold an international conference on the situation in the Korean peninsula where tension aggravated of late.

Russia: Davydov on 'Promising' Cooperation Projects With Libya

MM1004131196 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 9 Apr 96 p 3

[Report by RIA-NOVOSTI correspondent Yuriy Zinin specially for RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA: "They Met, But Not Empty-Handed"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The 21-26 March 1996 visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyah has been termed an important step along the road of restoring Russian-Libyan cooperation by Oleg Davydov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government and Russian minister of foreign economic relations.

"Until the early nineties," Davydov noted, "the Jamahiriyah was one of Moscow's most important trade and economic partners in Africa and the third world. With our specialists' participation a number of major projects were built in the sphere of energy, agriculture, and the defense industry, and scientific centers were created. But over the past few years as a result of the UN sanctions and the embargo against Libya, our relations have to all intents and purposes been wound down, and in 1995 trade turnover with that country barely reached \$100,000.

"At the same time, Tripoli's cooperation with other countries, including Western countries, has continued to develop — particularly in the sphere of oil extraction

and refining. The time has come to take a step to meet each other halfway in order to safeguard our interests in this oil-rich country.

"During the visit the delegation passed on to Colonel M. al-Qadhafi, the Libyan leader, a message from Boris Yeltsin expressing Russia's desire to restore the threads of cooperation with Tripoli that have been broken over the past few years.

"Clearly, Tripoli has reacted positively, as shown by the very busy nature of our contacts with the top Libyan leadership. A protocol on the development of bilateral cooperation was signed on the basis of the results of these contacts.

"Among the promising cooperation projects we should mention the construction of a railroad, a heat and electric power station, and power lines; the conversion of certain military production facilities; and the modernization of a number of enterprises built in Libya with our technical assistance. The range of projects is pretty wide — we estimate that it runs to \$10-11 billion.

"It is important that all the projects fall outside the framework of the UN Security Council sanctions — that is, they do not breach any of our international commitments.

"As for Libya's debts to Russia, we realize that the Libyans are ready to pay them, but they are currently in rather a tight framework as a result of the embargo and other restrictions. But we discussed ways to settle this problem, and it seems as though we have found a solution."

Russia: Polish Leader Says Belarus To Remove Nukes by Year End

*LD1004163396 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1505 GMT 10 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 10 (Interfax) — Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski said that Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka had promised during their recent meeting to remove the remaining 18 nuclear missiles from Belarusian territory by the end of the year.

The statement was made at a press conference in Moscow on Wednesday in reply to a question concerning Lukashenka's recent threats to suspend the withdrawal of missiles from Belarusian soil if Poland decided to step up entry into NATO.

Kwasniewski believes that Poland's entry into NATO should not be linked to the withdrawal of nuclear missiles from Belarus.

At the same time, he evaded a direct answer to a question on whether Poland would allow NATO to deploy its nuclear weapons on Polish soil if Warsaw joined the alliance. The president noted that any talk about the terms of Poland's admission would be premature at this point.

Kwasniewski said that discussion on the issue would continue until the end of the year and only then could Warsaw start debating the terms.

Russia: Council Ratifies Agreement With Kazakhstan on Baykonur

*LD1004191596 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1221 GMT 10 Apr 96*

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 10 Apr — The Federation Council today ratified an agreement between Russia and Kazakhstan on cooperation and interaction in ensuring security for Baykonur space complex and the personnel in Russian military units temporarily deployed in Kazakhstan. The agreement was signed by the heads of state in December 1994 and sent by the Russian Federation president to the State Duma for ratification. The committees of the Federation Council for CIS affairs and for defense and security believe that the ratification of this document by the Russian side will make it possible to ensure effective interaction in arranging tight security and protection for the facilities in Baykonur and will facilitate further development of relations between the two states in the military and political spheres as well as preserving a common space for defense in the CIS.

Political Issues

Russia: Yeltsin Contrasted With Other Presidential Candidates

MM0904150796 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI
("Political Wednesday" section) in Russian 4 Apr 96
p 1

[Article by Lyubov Tsukanova: "Boris Yeltsin Registered as Candidate for Post of Russian Federation President for Second Term"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Boris Yeltsin's registration as a Russian Federation presidential candidate for a second term, the ceremony for which took place yesterday at the Russian Federation Central Electoral Commission, marks for him the official start of the election campaign. Like all the other candidates, from the moment of registration he and his support group receive the right to election campaigning: the right to hold meetings and gatherings with voters and carry out other public actions, to distribute campaign materials, and so forth. But for all the similarity of the election measures listed in the law on the presidential elections, one cannot help noticing that the incumbent president's election campaign differs substantially from all the others.

Today there is a widespread view that Boris Yeltsin on the one hand and all the other candidates on the other are deliberately placed on unequal terms since "the entire state machine" is operating for the incumbent president. Is that the case? Indeed, in contrast to the other candidates in state service, a Russian president who is running for a second term, as the federal law states, "continues to perform his functions." But there is a stipulation here: "For the period of the elections he must not use the advantage of his official position." It is perfectly obvious that the vagueness of this formula in the law makes the president defenseless in the face of any accusations from his rivals. Let us recall that even before the start of the election campaign Yeltsin was subjected to sharp criticism for creating a "headquarters for the election of the president." Later the process of collecting signatures for candidate Boris Yeltsin came under close scrutiny. Now sharp criticism is being leveled against the personnel of his council for conducting the election campaign, which has been joined by the leaders of a number of state structures. It is characteristic that at the same time in Okhotnyy Ryad election staffs of leaders of the State Duma factions and deputies were created (by no means using their personal money). Large amounts of money were paid to the collectors of signatures for other candidates who got the business going. There were also other interesting things. But all this did not greatly attract public attention and did not cause other potential candidates anxiety.

But Boris Yeltsin's actions will continue to be viewed through a very powerful magnifying glass.

Actually, in general terms it is all correct: The more important a candidate, the greater his political weight, then the more profound and serious the interest in him. But Boris Yeltsin has another important distinction from his rivals. While they are all presidential candidates he is the incumbent president and the thrust of the election period for him consists primarily in implementing his constitutional powers and only secondarily in waging the election struggle and campaigning for his reelection. That is his strength as a contender for a second term and his weakness. His strength in that from the viewpoint of his eminent post he is not a "pig in a poke." Today everyone can judge Yeltsin as a president: His merits and shortcomings as head of state are evident to everyone and are open to discussion and are covered by the mass media (which, incidentally, are much more exacting and suspicious with regard to him than to his rivals). His strength in that the incumbent president can campaign for himself by actions while the others build their election campaigns mostly on criticism of the "present regime" and promises to improve life. In that sense even those who see "evil" in Yeltsin know absolutely exactly the boundaries of this "evil": the pluses and minuses of Yeltsin the politician have long been studied by all those who need to do so and the statements about his "unpredictability" are no more than myth. Today of all the contenders for the post of president Boris Yeltsin is the most predictable and that alone is a huge asset to him in the election struggle.

The other side of this coin is the vulnerability of any steps by the president in the election period since they are often assessed as election actions (as though they were not entirely real). And while for any other candidate concern for his positive image is considered a sacred matter, for the incumbent president it is assessed as populism. Understandably, any trip on state business can now be interpreted as election campaigning and any consultation with people in state service, be it his own aide or a governor or prime minister, can be described as using his official position. In that sense Boris Yeltsin will always be "guilty" before his rivals since he will be unable, unlike them, to allow himself the luxury of forgetting state business for this period and joining in the election struggle in full.

So the entire burden of state business, the full brunt of unrelieved responsibility, all the bans and self-restrictions are what goes into the other side of the scales and at least equalizes the potential of the candidate president and those who are "simply" candidates. Although of course it is impossible really to speak of equality. No law can equalize the chances of contenders for the top

post in the state if voters know everything about one candidate but can only speculate about another — with a greater or lesser degree of probability....

Russia: Congress of Yeltsin's Campaign Activists Highlighted

MK1004072796 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Apr 96 p 2

[Report by Sergey Mulin under the "Details" rubric with the general heading: "Boris Yeltsin as Candidate"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The congress of the All-Russia Movement of Public Support for B.N. Yeltsin has brought together 1,040 delegates, of whom 580 represented Russian regions.

Faced with the threat of a communist victory in the 16 June elections, even such original politicians as Boris Fedorov of "Forward, Russia!" and Yelena Mizulina of the "Yabloko" movement had to content themselves with the role of ordinary delegates. Ms. Mizulina has not left Grigoriy Yavlinskiy's bandwagon and she still hopes that the campaigning before the first round will help the "Yabloko" leader to demonstrate his strengths to their advantage, but she is convinced that the outcome of the vote will be predetermined by the duel between Yeltsin and Zyuganov.

"How can we win in the first round?" was one of the questions that was put to the speakers in notes from the audience. No one expressed in public any doubts about Boris Nikolayevich's final victory, all the more so because ardent speeches by Yuriy Luzhkov and Nikita Mikhalkov had considerably warmed up the crowd. Yet, the chant of "Yel-tsin! Yel-tsin," which began at Sergey Filatov's signal, echoed fairly weakly in an audience packed with dignitaries.

No one, including Sergey Filatov and Yuriy Yarov, the event's main organizers, liked the tricolor Russian flag, which seemed to grow out of what appeared to be a motley patchwork blanket spanning the entire stage. But this design was chosen by the campaign's single analytical center, so they unquestioningly bowed to its decision. Briefing delegates from the regions behind closed doors, Sergey Filatov, the movement's leader, warned them against setting up parallel structures — apart from those recognized by the center of Yeltsin's support headquarters through which the entire campaign effort will be financed.

Requests by grassroots activists to arrange a meeting with the movement's leadership in May were turned down: "You will have no time to travel to Moscow." The center's instructions are to be unquestioningly obeyed — regional grassroots activists' sole objective is to

carry out Moscow's decisions without fail. Not a single kopeck from the "presidential" funds may find its way to the followers of Yeltsin's key rival — Zyuganov. When it seemed to a delegate from Tambov that his governor — communist Ryabov — was present in the audience, this caused concern among the organizers. The alarm turned out to be false, but from now on the Yeltsinites are going to redouble their vigilance so as to keep their ranks clean. "Those who are not with are against," said Sergey Filatov at a working, closed-door part of the congress.

At the final news conference, however, Mr. Filatov, on the contrary, singled out the consolidation of society behind Yeltsin's figure, not the splitting of it, as the main element of the presidential concept, which, in his view, makes it crucially different from Communist platform principles.

The entire Yeltsinite camp is forbidden to engage in direct anti-Communist propaganda, but it is not quite clear how this ban can be reconciled with the recognition of Gennadiy Zyuganov as the chief and crucial rival. Emphasis placed on family and social values was echoed almost literally in [film director] Nikita Mikhalkov's speech: "Boris Nikolayevich is a Russian; he is, excuse me, a masculine type of man, while the word Russia is feminine." The film director attributed the need of contemporary Russia for President Yeltsin and to a special role played by the Russian Orthodox Church, after which the whole nation ought to follow like a child follows its mother. Meanwhile, the church "will go together with Yeltsin," Mikhalkov said.

Vladimir Shumeiko, leader of the "Reform — New Course" movement, who together with his colleagues drew up the brochure "The Reason Why We Shall Vote for President Yeltsin," enjoyed the most enthusiastic reception by the congress delegates. His arguments sounded somewhat similar to the view of Yelena Mizulina from "Yabloko," who thinks that although the reformers have not yet rallied around the president, they should use this opportunity because the threat of a communist victory is great, and Yeltsin is the only person who can defeat the communists.

Russia: Zyuganov Discusses Platform, Media Hostility on TV Program

LD1004224696 Moscow MTK Television in Russian 1530 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Summary] Gennadiy Zyuganov, leader of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation, features prominently in today's 24-minute edition of Moscow City Council TV's "Who's Who" program, which is devoted to the Russian presidential election on June

16. In an interview with announcer Dmitriy Gorin, Zyuganov talks about his electoral platform and the media hostility he is encountering.

The program weaves extracts from the recent campaigning speech by President Boris Yeltsin in Belgorod and prerecorded commentaries by presidential aide Nikolay Malyshev and political observer (and former liberal Duma deputy) Vyacheslav Nikonov into the Zyuganov material. There are also brief anti-Yeltsin comments from Communist Duma deputies Valentin Varennikov and Anatoliy Lukyanov recorded at the State Duma. Announcer Gorin maintains a fairly neutral, if not sceptical, stance throughout the interview.

After asserting that all the main television channels are pro-Yeltsin, Zyuganov suggests the same of Moscow City Council TV itself. He says: "They say that we will drag [the country] backwards. We couldn't crawl backwards any further! Russia's standard of living has been dragged back to what it was 50 years ago. We now have banditry like at the end of the civil war [in the early 1920's]. So we will only move forward. No one is going to take anything away from anyone. Everything must be done in accordance with the law and all forms of ownership must be encouraged. But that will go unreported by you, too! I'm afraid they'll cut this piece out of your program."

After Nikonov is shown saying that Zyuganov depends on pensioners for his vote and that all polls show that an overwhelming majority of young Russians oppose him, Zyuganov continues: "I meet students and I understand them. I speak to peasants and they all support me. Speak to workers and you'll see that not only have they been deprived of the opportunity to work or eat in the canteen but to have medical care for themselves and their children. So all of this is completely transparent and it won't bring any dividends. I am convinced that the winner will be the one who is able to unite the country today with completely clear slogans: the salvation of the fatherland, for instance — they're stealing that now. Decent work. The safety of the individual, the family, and so on. And elementary guarantees — education, work, health care, and all of the rest."

Zyuganov suggests that other parts of his electoral platform are also being stolen: "Have you noticed how they're now talking about a strong state? We've been hammering that home for three years. Decent administration, restoring the system of authority, public welfare? They learned it from us."

On Yeltsin's actual policies, he says: "We will support anything that is of benefit to the citizens. On the other hand, under the present economic policy there isn't a promise they can keep. We've seen how they've been

printing out money as fast as they can and instead of using the money they get to create new technology that could benefit our children and grandchildren, they squander it all. The policy has absolutely no future."

He continues: "As for the wages being paid state employees, they [the state employees] comprise eight to fifteen percent of workers as a whole and we hear nothing about all the the rest. The debt is reaching the astronomical figure of 13,000 billion rubles, and it rose in the last year of Yeltsin's administration by 300 percent. The reason for this is the economic policy being conducted: it leads only to drunkenness and thievery and absenteeism."

In his comments, Yeltsin aide Malyshev confines himself to attacks on Zyuganov's candidacy. Quoting the experience of his own decades as a Communist Party official, he says that at issue is not Zyuganov himself but that his party and Communists are incapable of running the economy. Nikonov, for his part, says he can not understand Zyuganov's complaint about media coverage as Zyuganov features "every day" on television news bulletins.

In their brief interviews, Varennikov and Lukyanov refer to Yeltsin's recent remark that Varennikov, for one, should be sitting in prison. Lukyanov says that the remark shows what sort of democrat Yeltsin is while Varennikov himself says he will not go to court, preferring, as he does, to wait for the "judgement" of 16 June.

One part of the program consists of five minutes of vox pops at a Moscow railway station. Various Russians from the provinces are asked if recent government action to alleviate wage arrears will affect how they vote in the summer. Only one of the half dozen speakers says he will vote for Yeltsin, and he stresses that his decision has nothing to do with recent improvements in wage payment. Yeltsin, he says, is merely the lesser of two evils.

Russia: Lebed Submits Signatures, Tax Declaration to Commission

*LD1104112796 Moscow INTERFAX in English
0926 GMT 11 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 11 (Interfax) — A total of 1.919 million voters in 72 regions of the Russian Federation support Aleksandr Lebed's bid for presidency, and their signatures were submitted to the Central Electoral Commission Thursday.

A formal letter of consent to run for president and a tax declaration for 1994 and 1995, both signed

by Gen. Lebed, were also submitted to the Electoral Commission.

Lebed enjoys maximum support in Moscow, St. Petersburg and the Krasnodar Territory, a spokesman for the Lebed action group told Interfax. In addition to those areas, signatures were collected in Moldova and Estonia.

Russia: 'Common Cause' Leader Withdraws Presidential Candidacy

MK1104092096 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 11 Apr 96 p 3

[KOMMERSANT-DAILY own information: "Khakamada Teaches the Arithmetic of Conscience"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Irina Khakamada, leader of the "Common Cause" movement told a press conference in the NEVSKOYE VREMYA newspaper press club in St. Petersburg about withdrawing from the presidential race. Khakamada thinks that, as a "new politician," she is not needed by either the present authority or those who may come to replace her. By withdrawing her candidacy Khakamada intends to give "moral support" to Galina Starovoytova, a woman and a democrat. In her opinion, Starovoytova's standing will be stronger, but in the final analysis she may withdraw her candidacy on terms more advantageous to the democratic forces. Calling for "voting according to conscience," Khakamada notes that "conscience should be arithmetically calculated" so that neither Zyuganov nor Zhirinovskiy could win from this choice. In Khakamada's view Zyuganov can only be defeated in the second round by the "party of power." As for the "nonexistent third force" in the shape of Yavlinskiy and Lebed, they can do only one thing: to agree to sit down at a "roundtable" with Yeltsin.

Russia: Ryabov Clarifies Issue of Election Funds for Candidates

MM1004110896 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Apr 96 p 3

[Report by Aleksandr Pelts: "Candidates Were Not Promised 'Golden Rain.' Central Electoral Commission Chairman Nikolay Ryabov Denied Reports of Billions Supposedly Allocated to Presidential Hopefuls"]

[FBIS Translated Text] I have recently been inundated with calls, the Central Electoral Commission chairman emphasized at Monday's [8 April] news conference. Is it true that every Russian Federation presidential candidate will receive as much as 14.5 billion rubles [R] to conduct his campaign? When asked where this information came from, the answer was the same: It was reported in the press.

The Central Electoral Commission chairman clarified the issue: The commission simply does not have such money. The aforementioned sum is the "ceiling" for the election fund that each candidate is entitled to form himself from various sources (legal ones, naturally — A.P.).

The sum allocated from the budget is much smaller — R4 billion. For all the presidential candidates.

It is not easy today to say how many there will be (to date, let us recall, three have been registered — Gennadiy Zyuganov, Boris Yeltsin, and Vladimir Zhirinovskiy). It is for this reason that the Central Electoral Commission is in no hurry, and today allocates only R150 million to each of the registered candidates. The rest of the money will be shared out equally after completing the candidate registration stage.

Of course, money problems were not the only topic discussed during the news conference. The Central Electoral Commission chairman focused attention, above all, on the fact that many regions are endeavoring to combine the presidential election with elections of local legislative authorities and organs of self-government. Mindful of the tremendous social significance of the presidential campaign, Nikolay Ryabov considers such a combination unfortunate and even harmful. The proposed saving on funds could affect the quality of the voting on the most important issue. In addition, there will be a considerable increase in the workload of members of precinct electoral commissions, and the process of counting the voting results will be complicated.

Mindful of the responsible and complex nature of the work of precinct commissions and the experience of the recent parliamentary elections, the Central Electoral Commission has taken a number of measures to improve technical support for commission staffers and to increase the recompense for work (involvement in the election campaign is not their main source of income). Thus, the food allowance for precinct commission members has been tripled, for example, and labor remuneration has been doubled. In addition, the Central Electoral Commission has drawn up special guidelines for precinct electoral commission members, providing recommendations on how to act in various "unforeseen" situations.

Journalists also asked about the organization of elections of legislative authorities in Chechnya. Nikolay Ryabov pointed out that the necessary preparatory work is being done there. But there are a lot of problems, associated mainly with the process of the internal political settlement of the conflict. He made a highly critical assessment of the plan for elections proposed by Yavlinskiy, which suggests a federal troop withdrawal

and the holding of a referendum. "Even in quiet times a referendum is considered highly acrid and ambiguous in terms of its results," the Central Electoral Commission chairman emphasized. Therefore it is simply pointless to hold one under conditions of possible direct strong-arm pressure from a grouping which remains armed.

During the news conference a lot of attention was devoted to the new version of the instruction on granting candidates airtime on television and for press articles. There are several fundamental innovations here too. Only the electronic mass media that are funded out of the budget now have the right to grant candidates free time. Regional television and the press are also entering the "fray." "The battlefield will now be not in Moscow but in the provinces," Nikolay Ryabov emphasized.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA asked about the Central Electoral Commission's cooperation with the special working groups of the Ministry of Defense formed during the recent parliamentary elections. Will such a form exist in the future? The Central Electoral Commission chairman noted the need for cooperation, particularly in the process of forming the voters' list, getting the necessary documentation to remote "points," and resolving other organizational and technical questions. The work of such working groups assists the Central Electoral Commission. Not only along the lines of the Ministry of Defense. Close contacts have also been arranged with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as there are a lot of Russians in countries in the near and far abroad. They undoubtedly want to take advantage of their chief constitutional right.

Russia: FSB Seizes Shipment of Weapons From Baltics

LD1104095296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
0940 GMT 11 Apr 96

[By Olga Semenova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 11 (Itar-Tass) — The Federal Security Service [FSB] of the Russian Federation has seized a large amount of automatic guns, assault rifles, grenades and ammunition in the course of the ongoing operation aiming to suppress terrorist activities on Russian territory.

The service's anti-terrorist group fighting illegal imports of firearms and ammunition to Russia said the captured shipment had arrived from the Baltics.

Acting spokesman for the Federal Security Service Aleksandr Zdanovich refused to reveal details of the operation but stressed that it was going on.

Zdanovich stressed that a sniper's rifle was found among the seized arms. "Attempts at uncontrolled imports of

firearms into Russia are becoming increasingly sophisticated and their scale is enlarging," Zdanovich said.

Russia: Deputies Answer Questions on Limiting President's Powers

964F1697A Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA
in Russian 27 Mar 96 p 9

[Article by Andrey Galkin: "Guarantor of the Constitution Guarantees Law and Order"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the Russian political tradition the rules can be changed in the middle of the game. Suffice it to recall the flaring of passions in December over the imperfection of election legislation. Today in a bigger game—for the position of first person in the state—the stakes are higher and the rules are stricter. Therefore rumors (maybe not rumors but suggestions!) about changing the Constitution are always surfacing. For example, the suggestion from Boris Nemtsov about restricting constitutional presidential authority and the constantly mentioned intention of the Communists to eliminate the post of president altogether. Moreover, many observers have also seen the possibility of changing the Constitution in the sensational results of the talks between Yeltsin and Lukashenka.

But while disputes are going on about the Constitution and presidential authority, there are gaping holes in Russia's legal field. The Duma, engaged mainly in populist tasks, will not be able to seriously reinforce legislation before June. Will presidential edicts be able to cover the legal "blank spots"?

That is what our discussion is about.

1. Is it likely that amendments will be made to the Constitution during the presidential campaign?

2. To what extent can the president's edicts stimulate the creation of legislation in the State Duma?

Nikolay Ryzhkov, State Duma deputy, leader of the Power to the People faction: 1-0; 2-0;

Aleksey Kiva, political scientist: 1-0; 2-8;

Aleksey Kara-Murza, political scientist: 1-0; 2-7;

Sergey Yushenkov, State Duma deputy: 1-4; 2-7;

Martin Shakkum, first vice president of the Reform Fund, doctor of political science: 1-3; 2-3;

Average points: 1-7.4; 2-5.0.

Nikolay Ryzhkov:

1. I think that now it is quite unlikely.

2. Instead of edicts it would be expedient for the president and the government to display more legislative initiative. This would accelerate the adoption of laws and the country would be living not according to edicts but according to laws.

Aleksey Kiva:

1. Unlikely. Because constitutional amendments must be ratified by the Federation Council by a two-thirds vote and it will not do that. The suggestion from Nemtsov to limit the president's rights even before the election is not likely to go anywhere. After the story of the famous Duma decree and the subsequent negotiations between Russia and Belarus the president's rating went up and his "constitutional position" does not need to be changed.

2. Yes, the adoption of edicts by the president will stimulate the creation of legislation in the Duma. If any state question requires an immediate decision and the State Duma does not suggest it the president has the right to publish the corresponding edict. It is another matter that these edicts may correspond to the interests of one political force or another and they may willy-nilly force the leftist majority in the Duma to react more quickly.

Aleksey Kara-Murza:

1. I do not think that will happen. That would require a consensus of the political players who have the ability to initiate amendments. There is, however, a certain balance of forces that is maintained around the overall center of gravity—the presidential elections. Sharp moves, for example, initiating amendments to the Constitution would create the risk of disturbing this balance. Therefore it seems to me that nobody will risk correcting the Basic Law.

2. The Duma is a less maneuverable mechanism. Therefore frequently the president's edicts stimulate the creation of laws by deputies: A certain part of the Duma would now like to get ahead of the president.

Sergey Yushenkov:

1. As early as April the Duma will have to consider the amendment on assigning control functions to the Federal Assembly which was initiated by the last convocation of the State Duma. True, the amendment will not make it through Federation Council. With an increase in the authority of the State Duma and the Federation Council, in my opinion, other amendments might be initiated as well.

2. This would indeed stimulate the creation of legislation in the Duma since edicts are in effect until the corresponding laws are adopted. True, this does not per-

tain to all spheres of legislative activity. For example, the president signed an edict on the periods of service of military servicemen in Chechnya. Although this is a sphere of the law the State Duma did not want to adopt a law that duplicates the president's edict.

Martin Shakkum:

1. The process of making amendments to the Constitution is fairly lengthy. Theoretically, amendments are possible but, taking into account the strict deadlines and the corresponding legal mechanisms, it is realistic only with the agreement of all parties, particularly the State Duma and the Federation Council. Such agreement does not exist now.

It is another matter that attempts to make amendments to the Constitution are quite likely as an element in the political battle. But I do not think they are likely to produce any political dividends for those who try to do this. It is already obvious that the president has won the first round regarding the problem of the denunciation of the Belovezhskaya Accords.

2. The president's edict does not stimulate the legislative activity of the Duma so much as it creates elements of a political standoff and tactical steps in the election struggle. The president, by adopting edicts and submitting laws for consideration, provokes the Duma to a certain reaction. And so far he has succeeded in doing this. In response to the Edict on Land the State Duma denounced the Belovezhskaya Accords. And the president fairly successfully took advantage of the Duma's inadequate response in his election campaign.

Behind the political battles few are thinking about the real legislative process. As a result, the already fragile legitimacy and stability of our society is placed in jeopardy.

The majority of the respondents think it is unfeasible to make amendments to the Constitution before June. For various reasons. One can draw the conclusion that the declaration of dissatisfaction with the existing Basic Law will now be purely an election move since criticism of the Constitution is perceived as criticism of the authorities in power.

The president's edicts, which close the gaps in our legislation, are not being subjected to criticism, and their stimulating effect on parliamentary legislation is noted.

Russia: Rybkin's Socialist Party Accused of Usurping Another's Name

LD1004204196 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1309 GMT 10 Apr 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 10 Apr (Itar-Tass) — From now on two Socialist Parties exist in Russia, and

one of them is accusing the other of usurping its name. The matter concerns the Socialist Party of Russia (SPR), which has just recently been set up by Ivan Rybkin, former State Duma Speaker, and was registered on 9 April, and the former Socialist Party of the Working People, which was renamed as the Socialist Party of Russia at its last congress on 16 March this year. The latter party's leader, Lyudmila Vartazarova, held a news conference today at the State Duma on this issue.

According to Lyudmila Vartazarova, the documents on changes to her party's rules, including its new name, were presented to the Justice Ministry and were to be considered in the normal way, which usually takes three or four weeks. But Ivan Rybkin's party, which had been established with the same name on 4 April, had, according to her, been registered immediately, bypassing the normal procedure.

There are no especial differences between the principles of the two Socialist Parties of Russia, Lyudmila Vartazarova considers. However, whereas Rybkin's SPR is unconditionally in favor of Boris Yeltsin's candidacy in the presidential elections, Vartazarova's SPR has not yet made its choice.

The former speaker, who is now the leader of one of the SPR's, at one time was involved in setting up the Socialist Party of the Working People together with Lyudmila Vartazarova. Then he left for the re-established Communist Party of the Russian Federation, and later he stood for the State Duma as a candidate representing the Agrarian Party.

Meanwhile the name "socialist" is becoming more and more fashionable. The news conference was informed that over the past month Martin Shakkum, one of the leaders of the Reform Foundation, and the Russian billionaire Vladimir Bryntsalov have announced that they intend to set up their own socialist parties.

Russia: Additions to Ministry, Federal Organs List Published

964F1732B Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 27 Mar 96 p 3

[“Additions and Revisions to List of Full and Abbreviated Names of Ministries and Other Federal Institutions of the Executive of the Russian Federation (Directive 180 of the Office of the President of the Russian Federation and the System of the Government of the Russian Federation of 9 February 1994)”]

[FBIS Translated Text] 1. To include in the section “Other Federal Institutions of the Executive” of the List of Full and Abbreviated Names of Ministries and Other Federal Institutions of the Executive of the Russian Federation:

Federal Aviation Service of Russia—FAS Rossii;

Federal Service of the Maritime Fleet of Russia—Rosmorflot;

Federal Service of the River Fleet of Russia—Rosrechflot;

Federal Automobile and Highways Service of Russia—FADS Rossii.

Basis: Edict No. 382 of the president of the Russian Federation of 15 March 1996.

[signed] Yu. Shustitskiy, chief of the Records Department of the Office of the President of the Russian Federation

V. Kurenkov, deputy chief of staff of the Government of the Russian Federation

Military & Nuclear Issues

Russia: Air Force Chief Denies Political Split in Defense Ministry

LD1004152196 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1517 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 10 (Interfax) — The rumors about a political split in the leadership of the Russian Defense Ministry were dismissed by Gen. Petr Deynekin, Russian Air Force commander.

“There are and can be no political differences, clans or clashes in the leadership of the Defense Ministry,” he said at a news conference in the Interfax main office Wednesday.

Deynekin said that the media reports of differences in the ministry were discussed by the ministry collegium Monday.

The collegium made a statement saying that such reports, in particular those mentioning the results of public opinion polls, are designed to mislead the public into believing that there is secret opposition among military leaders, he said.

“We think it inadmissible that various kinds of rumors are spread about the army and make it plain that there is full unity on all issues in managing the armed forces and support for the reform course in the country,” Deynekin said.

Russia: ‘Text’ of Satarov Speech to Military Published

MM1104103396 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 10 Apr 96 pp 1, 3

[“Full text” of speech delivered by Georgiy Satarov, Russian president's aide for political questions, at Rus-

sian Defense Ministry "last week": "Georgiy Satarov: Consolidation Is the Political Demand of the Time")

[FBIS Translated Text] As KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has already reported, Georgiy Satarov, the Russian Federation president's aide for political questions, delivered a speech last week at the Russian Federation Defense Ministry to generals and officers of the central command and control organs of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry and armed services and representatives of military research institutes and higher educational establishments.

Today we are publishing the full text of his speech.

After thanking the Russian Defense Ministry's leadership for inviting him to the meeting, the presidential aide said that he was basing his speech around the Russian Federation president's message to the Russian Federal Assembly as the fundamental document setting out presidential policy for the current year and on the problem of the main event of 1996 — the presidential elections.

I realize perfectly well, Georgiy Satarov noted, that everything that has happened in the country recently in all kinds of spheres has also affected the situation in the Army. Starting with the economic problems, and ending with narrowly departmental problems such as the failure of certain technologies, including techniques for moral and political training.

Indeed, there used to be a few fundamental documents, and it was clear what had to be done and how. Then all of a sudden everything vanished. This meant people lost their bearings. Often their personal bearings. As a result an entire link dropped out of the chain because moral and psychological training is part of military training. Results are affected not only by the actions of an officer or soldier, but also by his morale. And maybe this is why interest was not immediately shown in the president's message as a possible replacement for the traditional documents that existed formerly. What is the message? The constitution states that the Russian Federation president determines the basic guidelines for the state's foreign and domestic policy. But when the architects of the constitution were laying down this norm, a question naturally arose: Where and how are these guidelines going to be placed on record? So then we defined a way for ourselves, namely the message. Incidentally, not everything is simple with regard to it. Chiefly because the message is not a normative document. It is more the president's vision of particular problems and, as it were, his political credo for a particular period. And the president cannot oblige anyone to fulfill this credo. Except perhaps the government, and that for the simple reason that the president controls the personnel levers and can thereby force the government to fulfill the

program he proclaims in the message. The situation is far more complex with regard to the Federal Assembly, to which, according to the constitution, the message is addressed. He can only say: Here are my proposals and let us work together. This may come to pass, or it may not. It all depends on the disposition of forces.

What is the difference between the messages of the Russian and U.S. presidents? Usually the U.S. President's annual message is a very specific document examining between one and three problems in detail. Everything is different in our country. Not because we are a bunch of bunglers and cannot carry anything through to completion. The point is that the number of problems and the extent to which they are studied in the head of state's message depend largely on the condition of society and the state at the moment in question. Looking at U.S. society, we can only say: "We should be lucky enough to have your problems." Over there the president can indeed base his program on two or three major points. In our country the situation is the direct opposite. I do not think this is down to the specific nature of Russia and the Russian character. It is down to the specific nature of the transitional, crucial situation. We have masses of problems, and we must think about them all and resolve them all. And in close interconnection. This is what affects the content and form of the Russian president's message.

In Russian history there have now been three presidential messages to the Federal Assembly. The first two were comparatively traditional in form and with regard to problems and themes: the economy, politics, the social sphere, and so forth. The 1996 message is very different in this respect. Its structure is totally different: yesterday — today — tomorrow. It is an attempt by the president to laconically explain his ideas and, I would even say, is a personal philosophy of history, of the past, of the reasons for the crisis, of the inevitability of reform, of the present and future, and of the principles which he envisions Russia's future as being based on.

As for the past, it was dominated by a regime of states of emergency. This regime is effective over short distances, when the method of direct, tough administration can be used to resolve a small number of problems. This situation is traditional, for instance, in repulsing an external attack on the state. But over the long distances of ordinary life, where the number of problems increases sharply, this system does not work and begins to destroy itself.

The description offered of that system in the message is of exactly that kind. Another colossal problem of the former system is that any organism, any complex system must ensure, on the one hand, its own stability

and, on the other, adaptability. And these two functions are structurally separated in any complex system.

But our recent political structure was such that the same organ was forced to be responsible for both. It consequently lacked the exceptionally important function of adaptivity. The economic and technological crises, and this is a very important point for the Army, were attributable to precisely this. I think that many of us know that one of the most basic reasons why perestroika began was the colossal technological lag and the dissatisfaction of the Army and the military-industrial complex with the fact that the system as a whole could not ensure its own development.

What is happening in our country today? There used to be an exceptionally rigid, unadaptable system, and we are having to switch to a different system based on totally different principles. This sweeping restructuring of the state and social organism cannot be painless. That is not an attempt to offer an excuse. Unfortunately, it is a law of nature. What we are experiencing is the painful breakdown of the old and the emergence of the new inside the old.

Today there is a great deal of talk about the problems we are facing in all spheres and about the way events could have developed had a different team come in instead of the Gaydar team. Is this so?

When we were preparing the president's message, we often referred to archive documents. And there is an allusion to this in the text. But we did not cite one of the documents. I will speak of it in more detail. It was a memorandum from a first deputy premier to the Supreme Soviet dating from 6 August 1991. It was devoted to the economic situation in the country. It first described the economic difficulties, then cited statistics for the number of people living below the poverty line. These figures astounded me. In conclusion the memorandum examined three possible scenarios for emerging from the crisis. The first envisaged switching to the traditional ration-card economy of the forties. But it was impossible to do this other than via repressions. The second scenario was practically everything that Yeltsin and Gaydar began to do in 1992. But with two additions: the liberalization of prices of energy sources and the introduction by this means of some social compensators. Incidentally, at the end of the memorandum the conclusion was drawn that if we did not follow this course, then others would be forced to do so in 1992. The third scenario, intermediate between the first and the second, could only postpone the crunch for a while. Thus what was begun in 1992 was not a scientific experiment by academics who had suddenly come to power, it was what any informed people who

had found themselves in that situation would have begun to do. Not people who invent pipedreams on the basis of abstract notions of the situation, but those who really know just how bad everything is and what levers they have at their disposal and what they do not.

Another important nuance is the position set out in the message regarding what has happened since 1992. The reforms under way in Russia are often compared with other reforms: in China, Japan, post-war Germany, Chile. In this respect what is happening in our country is absolutely beyond comparison in terms of one political factor that is certainly important. All the reforms in these countries were carried out in conjunction with the suppression of political opponents. This was before the start of the reforms in Germany and Japan. Pinochet had a lever in the shape of the army. In China the Communist Party has a strict monopoly on government.

The situation in which Boris Yeltsin found himself in 1992 was utterly different from anything. It was unique. The state as such did not exist because a few signs, a few name plates on buildings could not be called a state. There were also many problems with the army and with the other "power" levers of government. People often ask: Why was the situation with Chechnya not straightened out sooner? How could it have been straightened out, with what power levers and what resources? Indeed, the instrument that was chosen in 1992 was not levers for tough direct government, but freedom, within which the natural self-organization of the market would operate. Only market freedom could extricate the country from the situation. This was the only chance of saving the country when the old mechanisms were no longer working. There was no alternative for the simple reason that there were no levers for direct directive rule.

The following point is also connected with this: All the reforms have been implemented in conditions of political freedom and political competition. These words readily suggest a denial: What about the events of fall 1993? It is very simple. There it was a question not of political opponents, but of people who had armed other people in order to shift politics onto a different, military plane. Different methods now had to operate. And insofar as it was a question of politics at that time, the opposition existed at that time. It took part in the elections, it received votes, it influenced the laws that were adopted.... This is also a factor that substantially affected the transformations because it was impossible to steer the vehicle while keeping firm hold of the wheel. We constantly had to travel a mountain road, maneuver, and watch out for falling rocks and landslides. That is how all this took place.

What has been the result? What are the prospects?

For all the drama of the prevailing situation, for all the existing problems, we now have real potential for solution, whereby totally different mechanisms for emerging from the crisis are operating. We have now attained a trajectory of the problem close to the 1990-1991 indicators, including with respect to many economic characteristics and even in terms of the rate of inflation (admittedly, back then it was covert inflation, but now it is overt). The difference between these two points, at the start of the trajectory and at its end, is fundamental. The first led into an impasse and had no fundamental solution within the framework of the system that existed at that time. It took a breakdown and the hardships we have experienced for us, while finding ourselves at approximately the same point, to end up now in a fundamentally different situation in which mechanisms extricating us from the crisis are operating even regardless of our wishes. Whether we want this or not, the natural laws of nature have now begun to operate.

Finally, a few words about the main event of the year — the presidential elections. Their main distinguishing feature is exceptional contradictoriness and the split in society. Yes, there are always splits in politics. But in any society there are also universal values that unite people. Our problem is that we have still not found this social glue, the universal values to unite people and not shake up the system, and to prevent anticipation of the elections from turning into anticipation of catastrophe. The grave economic situation and colossal socioeconomic stratification of society are the first point. The second is politics in forms descending to the approach that "a fight is no hindrance to killing." All this is inflaming people and pulling them apart. And the elections themselves are essentially also a procedure that divides people. On the other hand, it would be just as dangerous without elections, since any attempt to try somehow to cancel or postpone them would inevitably end in the collapse of the present regime and society.

What is the way out of the situation?

The way out is proposed by the Russian Federation president in his election platform, which will be made public soon: consolidation. This is partially given in the message too, where the president presents his own values: Here is my ideological credo, I invite you to espouse it. It contains no politics, it contains love for Russia, love for people, it contains an understanding of what is good and what is bad for Russia, what is disastrous and what is promising regardless of who you are. The president is also intending to propose this in the elections. He wants to undertake a consolidating mission

despite a situation that is objectively not conducive to this. But the president loves such situations.

You know that the president's popularity has been increasing lately. Although these figures should be treated quite calmly and should not be overestimated. Public opinion polls are quite a relative instrument. You will agree that as soon as Boris Yeltsin began to be quite active, this worked. This trend was affected neither by the events in Pervomayskoye, nor by the problems with wage payments, nor by anything else. The initial effect of an active president is influencing voters. I think that this trend will persist and will mean that Boris Nikolayevich wins the elections.

In what spheres will the headquarters to prepare for the president's reelection pursue its activities?

I will make no secret of the fact that basic preparations for the elections began in the presidential team a long time ago, back in the fall of last year. The existing structure looks as follows. There is the president, who heads the electoral council. One of the members of that council — Viktor Vasilyevich Ilyushin — is taking leave and dealing with the day-to-day management of candidate Yeltsin's election campaign. An intellectual headquarters has been set up under the president and is formulating ideology, strategy, and concepts. And there are two executive structures. The public side of the campaign is Filatov with his conglomerate of public organizations and specific well-known politicians, performers, and sportsmen who support Yeltsin. There is an executive committee headed by Yuriy Yarov. This is in fact the driving force of the entire campaign. Management is on not the structural but the program principle, that is, there are programs code-named "Chechnya," "Countryside," "Young People..."

At the end of the meeting Georgiy Satarov answered servicemen's questions. The first of them, quite naturally, concerned the presidential program for a peaceful settlement in Chechnya. Could it be fundamentally adjusted in the event of inappropriate actions by the Dudayev side? In the opinion of the presidential aide, such an adjustment would be inadvisable. Since any change in the situation must also entail a change in vantage point. Asked a question that perturbs all servicemen — does the president, as supreme commander in chief, know the real state of affairs in troop units with their huge debts for municipal services, imperfect combat training infrastructure, and problems with material and clothing supplies — Georgiy Satarov replied as follows: To be totally frank, the president naturally does not have a thorough knowledge of the situation in each troop unit. This is both unrealistic and impossible. But it is a fact that Boris Nikolayevich receives information about the

state of affairs in the Army not only from the Defense Ministry. I would emphasize, Georgiy Satarov noted, that it is a principle of the president's work to receive information via multiple channels. And it is another rule that, along with generalized information, the head of state is always given specific illustrations, letters, and tables. The desire to get down to the fine detail is a characteristic of Boris Nikolayevich, who is never satisfied with general information.

Russia: Yeltsin Speaks on Nuclear Safety Issues 10 Apr

MM1004144496 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
11 Apr 96 pp 1, 3

["Text" of speech delivered by President Boris Yeltsin at a Russian Security Council session in the Kremlin 10 April: "President Yeltsin on Problems of Nuclear Security"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A session of the Russian Security Council has taken place in the Kremlin under Boris Yeltsin's chairmanship. The most important item was preparation for the Moscow summit meeting on nuclear security. The meeting is to take place 19-20 April, and the leaders of the seven most industrially developed states of the world will take part, in addition to Russia (Ukraine will be present as an observer). Incidentally, U.S. President B. Clinton has decided to stay in Moscow for a whole day after the summit, to discuss Russian-U.S. relations.

IZVESTIYA has obtained the text of President Yeltsin's speech at the Security Council; we publish it on page 3.

[Yeltsin speech begins] **First.** Nuclear power is an important factor in the stable development of civilization. It must meet rigorous demands in the safety sphere. This applies to the conditions of the production of fuel and energy as well as to the processing, transportation, and storage of waste. The aim is to reduce risk to the minimum.

Russia is currently making serious efforts to ensure the safety of the nuclear power industry. But these questions cannot be tackled successfully solely within the framework of national programs.

We are in favor of broad international cooperation in the development, production, and operation of new, safe, and economically advantageous nuclear power installations. Our position is the same with regard to the safe handling of atomic energy waste.

Nobody disputes that there should be a healthy rivalry among scientific and design ideas. But when it comes to the safety of reactors, we are in favor of strengthening collaboration in every way. It is in our common interests

to develop joint designs for safe nuclear reactors for the 21st century. We must tackle together the problem of the destruction of the most dangerous, long-lived radioactive elements.

It is important to make active use of nuclear security centers. An accord has been reached on the creation of such centers in Russia and the United States within the framework of bilateral cooperation. Other countries must also be brought into this cooperation.

In this way one more multilateral mechanism will be created, aimed at increasing the safety of atomic power.

Beginning this year, we intend to invite foreign experts and specialists to assess the current safety level of Russia's nuclear power stations with first-generation reactors. I believe this practice could also be applied at a broad international level.

Russia welcomes the active participation of international financial institutions such as the International and European Banks for Reconstruction and Development in the funding of projects aimed at improving the supply of energy and increasing the safety and efficiency of the power industry.

In short, we are in favor of broad cooperation and collaboration, of pooling efforts in this vitally important matter.

Second. The formation of nuclear legislation is actively under way in our country. The following have already been adopted:

- the Law on the Utilization of Atomic Energy;
- the Law on Conservation of the Natural Environment;
- the Law on Ecological Expert Studies;
- the Law on Radiation Safety of the Population.

A draft Law on the Handling of Radioactive Waste is under examination in the State Duma.

All this will undoubtedly accelerate Russia's integration into the international legal system in the nuclear sphere.

At the Moscow meeting it will be announced that the Convention on Nuclear Security, signed by us in Vienna in 1994, has entered into force on the territory of the Russian Federation.

Next in line is the signing of the Vienna Convention on Liability for Nuclear Damage.

The practical implementation of the program for the handling of liquid and solid radioactive waste in the Northern and Far Eastern regions of our country has

begun. The participation of the countries of Northern Europe, the United States, and Japan in the work under this program will substantially accelerate its fulfillment.

That will enable Russia officially to accede to the 1993 protocol to the London convention banning the discharge of radioactive waste into the sea.

Third. A major role in the implementation of the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons belongs to the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency]. Monitoring functions are vested in it, and it is very important that the "Eight" should support the agency's activities.

Russia has done everything possible to store all the former Soviet nuclear weapons on its own territory. The final stage of this work — the withdrawal of nuclear arsenals from Belarus and Ukraine and their dismantling — is to be completed this year.

It is in the interests of the "Eight" and the entire world community that the nuclear weapons of the other nuclear countries should also be concentrated within their own territories.

The preparation of the treaty on the general prohibition of nuclear tests is being completed. This treaty will help to strengthen the international regime of nonproliferation and will be another step along the path to a nuclear-free peace on the planet.

Fourth. Nuclear materials are becoming available as a result of the dismantling of nuclear weapons. These should be used in peaceful activities for the benefit of all mankind.

We are engaged in the construction of reliable storage facilities for them. We are erecting a storage facility for such materials in Russia on the territory of the "Mayak" production association with U.S. participation. We regard this as a positive example of cooperation and believe that this experience could be extended to other countries.

The storage facility will house around 40 percent of Russia's stocks of weapons-grade plutonium. After the completion of construction we propose to place it under IAEA control.

Russia has unilaterally taken a bold step. We have announced the recycling of 500 tonnes of highly enriched weapons-grade uranium which is surplus to national defense requirements. We will reprocess it into fuel for nuclear power stations.

In this connection a priority task for our state is the creation of a modern system of physical protection, registration, and monitoring of nuclear materials.

There are examples of fruitful cooperation between Russian and U.S. specialists in this sensitive sphere too. Eleven nuclear industry facilities in Russia are already being fitted with equipment developed as a result of this cooperation.

The "Eight" should also keep constantly in their field of vision the formulation of measures to clamp down on illegal trafficking in nuclear materials and prevent terrorism in the nuclear sphere. It is necessary to ensure the smooth running of the mechanism for the exchange of information on these matters and to develop cooperation among the special services.

I believe a protocol on collaboration among the special services of the "Eight" in the sphere of the prevention of illegal trafficking in nuclear materials is needed.

Russia: Yeltsin Urges Nuclear States To Follow Moscow's Example

LD1004163096 Moscow NTV in Russian
1500 GMT 10 Apr 96

[From the "Segodnya" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] In Moscow today, President Yeltsin dealt not only with Chechnya but also with international problems. A Security Council sitting was devoted to these problems.

[Correspondent Aleksandr Zinenko] The main theme was that of preparations for the nuclear safety summit planned for 19 April in Moscow. Boris Yeltsin intends to propose that Western leaders pool efforts to combat the smuggling of nuclear materials. What is at issue is cooperation between the special services of Russia and the G-7 countries.

[begin Yeltsin recording] It is essential to set up a mechanism for exchanging information on these questions and to develop cooperation with the special services. That is your department Mikhail Ivanovich [Barsukov], Anatoliy Sergeyevich [Kulikov], and you should have here both bilateral agreements and perhaps even a common agreement on cooperation. [end recording]

[Zinenko] Boris Yeltsin said that this year Russia would complete the withdrawal of former Soviet nuclear arsenals from Ukraine and Belarus and called upon the remaining nuclear countries to follow Moscow's example.

[begin Yeltsin recording] It is in the interests of the G-8 and the entire world community that the nuclear weapons of the remaining nuclear countries are also concentrated within their own territories. This is what must be said without fail in the address and it must be

insisted that this figures in the final communique. [end recording]

[Zinenko] Boris Yeltsin called upon the meeting participants to take a serious approach to preparing for the summit and he cited the G-7 sitting by way of example. Yeltsin said that during it, everything had been thought up to the last detail. This is Aleksandr Zinenko, NTV.

Russia: General Zelentsov Applauds Yeltsin's Nuclear Proposals

LD1004193896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1808 GMT 10 Apr 96

[By Anatoliy Yurkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 10 (Itar-Tass) — A Russian academician and general on Wednesday highly assessed President Boris Yeltsin's new proposals on nuclear security.

Sergey Zelentsov said Yeltsin's proposals on how to guard nuclear stockpiles not by one state, but by the entire international community, were a new step towards stability on the planet.

According to Zelentsov, Russia's nuclear stockpile is well guarded. However, the experience, massed by other countries with nuclear arms, might help work out universal rules for storage of nuclear material, he said.

Russia, possessing an enormous scientific and industrial potential may put its own recommendations to a nuclear safety summit with the G-8 opening in Moscow on April 19-20.

It would be advisable for Russian and G-7 military experts to make proposals concerning safe dismantling and storage of nuclear warheads.

Zelentsov said controls over Russian nuclear weapons were tight. Russia might conclude bilateral and multilateral agreements on inspectors' exchanges with countries possessing nuclear arsenals, he added.

Russia: Yeltsin Outlines Tasks for Nuclear Power Engineering

LD1004123696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1144 GMT 10 Apr 96

[By Andrey Surzhanskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 10 (Itar-Tass) — "Russia is making energetic efforts to ensure security of nuclear power engineering. But these problems might be successfully resolved in the framework of national programmes only," President Yeltsin said today at a session of the Russian Security Council devoted

to preparations for the international summit on nuclear security.

The session was attended by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov, Foreign Minister Yevgeniy Primakov, Nuclear Energy Minister Viktor Mikhaylov, Director of Federal Security Service Mikhail Barsukov, Chief of the Foreign Intelligence Service Vyacheslav Trubnikov.

Yeltsin pointed out that the main task in the field of nuclear power engineering was to bring possible risks to naught. The president noted that Russia comes out for broad international cooperation in the development, production and use of safe and economically efficient nuclear power installations and safety in handling nuclear waste.

"We believe in sound competition between scientific and designers' ideas. But when the safety of nuclear reactors is at issue, we come out for comprehensive strengthening of cooperation," the president said. He stressed that the development of joint projects of safe nuclear reactors of the 21st century meets common interests, but the problem of the destruction of the most dangerous lasting radioactive elements must be resolved as well, Yeltsin noted. The problem of shutting down nuclear reactors should be resolved jointly with technical experts, rather than be resolved at a political or a local level, he said. Yeltsin pointed out the importance of active use of nuclear security centers which Russia and the United State had agreed to set up. It is necessary that other countries join this cooperation, Yeltsin said.

He pointed out that beginning from 1996, Russia intends to invite foreign experts to assess the level of security at Russian nuclear power stations provided with nuclear reactors of the first generation.

"Russia welcomes international financial institutions' active participation in financing projects aimed at improving power supply and raising the level of security and efficiency of nuclear power engineering," the Russian president said.

Federal Assembly

Russia: Duma Statement Regrets Protests to Belovezhskaya Vote

LD1004141496 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1349 GMT 10 Apr 96

[By Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 10 (ITAR-TASS) - The Russian State Duma (lower house of parliament) on Wednesday adopted a statement saying it

was disappointed with a hostile response of some leaders of former Soviet republics to its March's resolution condemning the breakup of the Soviet Union.

The Russian lawmakers said that some politicians in the Commonwealth of Independent States, saw nothing in this document except "a threat" from Russia.

"This is the only way to interpret statements and corresponding remarks by presidents of Georgia, Uzbekistan, Armenia and Moldova, in particular," the statement said.

Last March, the communist-dominated Duma adopted a resolution denouncing a number of decisions taken by the Russian parliament back in 1991 which formally validated the dissolution of the Soviet Union.

The resolution caused a wave of protests from the leaders of newly independent states. However Russian communist leaders preferred to ignore criticism insisting that the true response from working people in the republics differed from that of their presidents.

Russia: Yeltsin Criticized for Practice of Rejecting Duma Laws

MM1004120996 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian
10 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by Valentina Nikiforova: "Whether Parliamentarianism Is Good or Bad, Russia Must Have It"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Whether parliamentarianism is good or bad, Russia must have it — so said by Duma Speaker Gennadiy Nikolayevich Seleznev at a meeting with journalists.

These meetings are becoming a tradition: A couple of times a year the leader of the legislative chamber and representatives of the mass media exchange views on each other's work. And they do not pull their punches. At this meeting, for example, the speaker of the chamber expressed his surprise that journalists are not alarmed that "law by edict" is being sedulously implanted in the country. The president is returning draft laws passed by the Federal Assembly and instantly issuing an edict on the same topic. Why is this being done? To nullify parliament?

Okay, the reproach is fair, but journalists have also had complaints against the Duma leadership: No matter how the press service endeavors to help (the staff recruited there are sensible, intelligent, and enterprising people, and there was even a roundtable on problems of parliamentary journalism last year), but the press' working conditions do, to be blunt, leave a lot to be desired. Even transmitting an urgent piece of information to your editorial office is a problem. Let us be thankful for small mercies: The factions and committees are welcoming.

And Gennadiy Nikolayevich found so many kind words to say here about his fellow deputies and the whole Duma that, to be honest, the hope emerges that this State Duma will do quite a lot for Russia. Deputies, notably, intend to discuss and pass such important acts in the very near future as the Land and Budget Codes and laws on a human rights commissioner, government, and the handover of power — what, say, will the president become when he leaves office?

Russia: Seleznev Advocates Retaining Presidency for 2-3 Years

MM1104102296 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian
11 Apr 96 p 1

[Unattributed interview with State Duma Speaker Seleznev; date, place not given: "Gennadiy Seleznev: We Will Keep the Post of President Temporarily"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [IZVESTIYA] Judging by your recent statements you have given up the idea of abolishing the post of president, although you previously actively pursued that idea. Have you yourself changed your mind or are you simply obeying a party decision?

[Seleznev] I have not changed my opinion. And the party has not adopted any decisions on keeping the presidency. It is a question of tactics. And I agree with G. Zyuganov here: If we win the elections we must keep the presidency for two or possibly three years. In that time the draft of a new Russian Constitution could be prepared. I see Russia in the future as a parliamentary republic since under any president there will always be a "tug of war" between the branches of power. However, I do doubt the advisability of reviving the post of vice president.

Russia: State Duma Adopts Land Bill in First Reading

LD1004154896 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1215 GMT 10 Apr 96

[By Igor Zhukov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 10 (ITAR-TASS) — The State Duma (Russian parliament lower house) adopted a federal bill on peculiar features of implementing constitutional rights of citizens to land in the first reading on Wednesday [10 April]. The bill prevents the emergence of big landed properties and speculative deals with land.

President Boris Yeltsin issued a decree on this matter early last March.

The document adopted by the Duma regulates the rights of citizens to plots of land to conduct farming, personal

husbandry, fruit- and vegetable-growing as well as construction of houses for permanent residence and for summertime.

The bill establishes that Russian citizens may have plots of land under the right to private property, life-long inheritance, while foreign citizens and people without citizenship only under the right of tenantry.

Provision is also made for the right to transfer landed property by inheritance as well as its sale.

Article 3 of the bill also provides for the right of citizens to plots of land for fruit-growing and summerhouse husbandry.

They also have the right to transfer the plot of land by inheritance, to gift it, exchange, mortgage, sell and to make other deals without changing the purposeful designation of the plot of land.

Citizens, having in their possession a landed share, can receive a real plot of land for farming or expanding their personal small plots of land.

Laws of the Russian Federation's subjects fix the ceiling number of landed shares which a shareholder of an agricultural organisation may have.

In the opinion of the bill's authors, this document ensures formation of such landed relations which will create more efficient organisational and legal forms in agriculture.

Russia: Duma Votes for Amendments on Media Coverage Law

LD1004203696 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1311 GMT 10 Apr 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Natalya Panshina]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 10 April (ITAR-TASS) — Overcoming the Russian president's veto, State Duma deputies today voted in favor of making amendments and additions to the federal law "On the procedure for coverage of the activities of the state authorities by the state mass media."

By a resolution of the State Duma, the federal law on making amendments and additions was approved with the previously adopted wording, and this means that, despite the president's objections, the state mass media include media founded not just by state authorities but also by mere "state organizations." In view of the fact that article 48 of section one of the Russian Federation Civil Code regards the notion "organization" in its broadest sense, mass media belonging to state enterprises may also be included in the state mass media. Although not stipulating the size of the state's share in

the mass media being set up with the state's participation, the law, nevertheless, provides the grounds for imposing the relevant obligations on these newspapers, magazines, and audio-visual media.

Russia: Federation Council Endorses Law Raising Minimum Wage

LD1004203096 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1945 GMT 10 Apr 96

[By Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 10 (ITAR-TASS) — Russia's Federation Council endorsed on Wednesday a law raising the minimum wage to 75,900 starting from April 1.

The endorsement of the law, which was supported by 113 and opposed by 18 deputies with nine abstentions, was preceded by heated debates in which regional leaders voiced their concern that it will be hard for them to implement this law because their budgets had no money.

They warned that this "may cause new nonpayments."

The law was passed by the State Duma in February, but the Federation Council turned it down as "not taking into account the country's budget deficit."

The two houses of parliament set up a conciliatory committee to work a compromise. The Duma agreed with the Federation Council's proposal to postpone increasing the minimum wage until April 1.

Russia: Federation Council Approves Bill on Securities Market

LD1104092696 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0919 GMT 11 Apr 96

[By Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 11 (ITAR-TASS) — The Federation Council (upper house of the Russian Parliament) today approved the long-awaited law on the securities market in its new edition, proposed by the Conciliation Commission, made up of representatives from the two houses of the Russian Parliament and the president.

The law was adopted by the State Duma and the Federation Council last July, but turned down by the president. The State Duma, not wishing to take Boris Yeltsin's remarks into account, approved it again in its previous form last November.

However, the Federation Council blackballed it and recommended the Duma to include in it the president's

and the Council's amendments. A tripartite Conciliation Commission was set up for this purpose, which had worked out the present version.

The Council's Committee for Economic Policy believes that this document, absolutely indispensable for a market economy, makes possible "the legal regulation of economic and financial relations on the share market". Now the law distinguishes more clearly between dealer and bank of issue, deposit-taker and manager of securities, which rules out possible abuses and violations of the rights of investors and shareholders.

The new version of the law also determines the status and functions of the Federal Commission for Securities, formulates more definitely all the types of professional activities, lays down restrictions on the combination of different types of activities and transactions with securities.

**Russia: Legislative, Regulatory Documents 31
Mar-6 Apr
96P50069A**

[FBIS Report] The following is a listing of Russian legislation recently published in the press of the Russian Federation compiled by FBIS. Numbers within parens indicate approximate wordage. Entries followed by the notation "Text" have been translated into English and are available in FBIS publications.

**SECTION I: ECONOMIC LEGISLATION
(EXPORT-IMPORT, BANKING,
PRIVATIZATION, AUCTIONS, REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT)**

Government 28 February Decree No. 208 On State Support Measures For Production Of Tu-324 Aircraft, With Af terword Provided By D. Mikhaylin. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Apr 96 p 4) (450/550)

Government 21 March Decree No. 315 On Confirming Procedure For Calculating Inflation Index Used In Calculating Value Of Fixed Capital And Other Property Of Enterprises When These Are Sold, For Purposes Of Determining Taxable Profits. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Apr 96 p 4) (300)

Government 21 March Decree No. 320 On Procedure For Sale Of Railroad Stock And Containers In Federal Ownership To Citizens And Corporate Bodies. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Apr 96 p 4) (200)

Government 21 March Directive No. 424 On Transfer Of Federally-Owned Packets Of Shares To Federation

Components. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Apr 96 p 5) (300)

Government 23 March Decree No. 341 On Federal Special-Purpose Energy Saving Electronic Equipment Program. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Apr 96 p 3) (200)

Government 23 March Directive No. 446 Instructing Ministry Of Finance To Guarantee Loan Of R15 Billion To Udmurt Republic For Payment Of Wage Arrears. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Apr 96 p 5) (100)

Government 25 March Decree No. 349 Adding FAPSI's First Deputy General Director V.I. Markomenko To State Commission For Restoration Of Chechen Republic's Economy And Social Sphere. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Apr 96 p 6) (150)

Yeltsin 29 March Edict No. 430 On State Support For Citizens In Building And Acquiring Housing. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Apr 96 p 4) (850)

Yeltsin 29 March Edict No. 431 On New Stage Of Implementation Of State Targeted Program "Housing". (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Apr 96 p 1) (500)

Yeltsin 29 March Edict No. 432 On Developing Competition In Provision Of Services For Operating And Repair Of State And Municipal Housing Stock. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Apr 96 p 3) (500)

Yeltsin 1 April Edict No. 443 On Measures To Encourage Creation And Activity Of Financial-Industrial Groups. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Apr 96 p 6) (400)

**SECTION II: POLITICAL (INTERNATIONAL
AND CIS AFFAIRS, ELECTIONS, CRIME,
POLLUTION)**

Government 15 March Decree No. 326 On Cessation Of Russian Observers Participation In Mission Of International Conference On Former Yugoslavia. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Apr 96 p 5) (250) (Text)

Government 16 March Directive No. 385 Appointing Nationalities Minister Mikhaylov Chairman Of Government Commission For Administering Fund For National And Cultural Revival Of Russia's Peoples. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Apr 96 p 6) (150)

Central Electoral Commission 20 March Decree No. 82/692-ii On Registration Of 150 Agents For Gennadiy Zyuganov According To Appended (But Not Published) List. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Apr 96 p 6) (150)

Government 21 March Decree No. 305 Approving Federal Targeted Program For 'Destruction Of The Stockpiles Of Chemical Weapons In The Russian Federation' Plus Abbreviated Version Of Program. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Apr 96 pp 5, 6) (500/7000 plus tables)

Government 21 March Decree No. 310 On Questions Of The RF Ministry Of Nationalities Affairs And Federal Relations. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Apr 96 p 3) (200)

Government 21 March Directive No. 409 On Setting Up Press Center For Moscow Summit On Nuclear Safety. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 2 Apr 96 p 6) (500) (Text)

Government 22 March Directive No. 442 On Russian Delegation To Attend 1st And 2nd Sessions Of UNGA Preparatory Committee For Setting Up International Criminal Court. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Apr 96 p 5) (300) Government 23 March Decree No. 337 On Building Center For CIS Organizations In Moscow. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Apr 96 p 4) (450)

Government 23 March Directive No. 450 On Mar-Apr Moscow Fair For Trade In Nonfood Products. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Apr 96 p 6) (300)

Yeltsin 27 March Edict No. 424 On Measures To Strengthen State Support For Science And Higher Education In RF. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Apr 96 p 3) (500)

Yeltsin 31 March Edict No. 435 On Program For Settling Chechnya Crisis. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 3 Apr 96 p 3) (1000)

Yeltsin 1 April Edict No. 468 Relieving Lobov Of Duties As Chairman Of Organizing Committee For Nuclear Safety Summit 'At His Request,' Appointing Primakov To Replace Him. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Apr 96 p 3) (200) (Text)

Yeltsin 1 April Edict No. 469 Adding Orlenok And Okean Children's Centers To 'Children Of Russia' Presidential Program. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Apr 96 p 6) (100)

Yeltsin 2 April Edict No. 489 Instituting 2 April National Holiday. (Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 5 Apr 96 p 3) (150)

Regional Affairs

Russia: Maritime Kray Buys American Wheat

MM1004130896 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 9 Apr 96 p 1

[Report from roundup of ITAR-TASS reports: "American Grain for Maritime Kray"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Maritime Kray has bought one third of its annual grain requirement in the United States. The 150,000 tonnes of top-quality wheat will be delivered here within the framework of the U.S. program for guaranteed cover for export credits from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The most advantageous point in this contract for the Russian side was the six-month deferment on the payment for the grain shipments. Here the import of grain from the United States is only the start of broad trade cooperation between Maritime Kray and American farmers. Fruit, meat, dairy products, rice, and forage will be supplied to the kray with deferred payment. In the very near future a contract for \$5 million for the delivery of corn will be signed.

Russia: Yeltsin Keeps Promises to Regional Pensioners

LD1104101196 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0935 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 11 (ITAR-TASS) — Another three component parts of the Russian Federation — the Pskov region, the Stavropol territory and the Republic of Udmurtia — have grounds to rejoice and praise the president for keeping his word to have the delayed pensions paid in full before May Day.

The three regions have joined other eight that have received the full promised funds to pay the delayed pensions, the Russian President's aide Aleksandr Livshits said on Thursday.

According to Livshits, a total of 23 billion roubles have been delivered to the Pskov region, 138 billion roubles — to the Stavropol territory and 20 billion roubles — to Udmurtia.

Thus, the number of Russia's regions, which have already received financial aid within the framework of the presidential plan, reached 11. In addition, financial support continues to be provided to another 46 component parts of the Russian Federation, Livshits said.

Russia: Dzerzhinskiy Rally Held in Support of Yeltsin Reelection

MM1004113996 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI
("Political Wednesday" section) in Russian 10 Apr 96
p ii

[Report by Boris Galov under the "In Small Towns" rubric: "Rally Gives Orders"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dzerzhinskiy, Moscow Oblast — A rally in support of Russian President Boris Yeltsin was held in the city of Dzerzhinskiy in Moscow Oblast at the end of last week. The rally took place in the city telephone exchange building, which was built two years ago with the population's money. The city's telephone problem was practically resolved when it was put up. There are now more telephone numbers than apartments in Dzerzhinskiy. The telephone exchange was built on the same principles as are now being proposed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin in the "National Telephone" election program.

"Montazh" joint-stock company chief V. Vershinin, City Mayor V. Dorkin, company shareholder N. Kravtsov, enterprise veteran N. Guzyayev, city inhabitant Y. Perepechenko, and others addressed the rally.

The speakers noted that in the upcoming presidential election, out of the two most realistic candidates for the post — Yeltsin and Zyuganov — people should definitely give their votes to the current president. Under him the city has developed and become wealthier, intensive housing construction has been proceeding, local self-government has developed actively, and the city's charter has been adopted. We do not know what would happen under Zyuganov if he were to find himself at the helm of the state. However, according to the speakers, even Yeltsin must be elected with this proviso: That he ends the senseless war in Chechnya, intensifies the fight against the wave of crime, and speeds up the course of social reform in the country.

Russia: Yavlinskiy Reportedly Tops Poll in Rostov-na-Donu

MK1104070496 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA
in Russian 10 Apr 96 p 3

[NEGA report]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a poll among Rostov-na-Donu residents, there are six most-popular candidates for the Russian Federation presidency. Among the "top three" are Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, favored by 23 percent of those polled; Gennadiy Zyuganov, who scored 21 percent; and Boris Yeltsin, with 16 percent. Aleksandr Lebed scored as little as nine percent.

The greatest number of negative points were given to Vladimir Zhirinovskiy (64 percent), Boris Yeltsin (16 percent), and Gennadiy Zyuganov (15 percent). Thus, a considerable part of those polled are at the present time not going to vote for these candidates. Grigoriy Yavlinskiy scored the largest number of positive points, which add up to 16 percent.

Russia: Aircraft Carrier Takes Part in N. Fleet Exercises

MM1004135196 Moscow Russian Public Television
First Channel Network in Russian
0805 GMT 7 Apr 96

[From the "Military Courier" program: Video report on recent Northern Fleet exercises by Anatoliy Klepikov; figures in brackets denote broadcast time in GMT in hours, minutes, and seconds]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [082224] [Klepikov over video of warships at sea] From 18 through 23 March some 50 Russian surface ships and submarines were operating in the Barents and Norwegian Seas. Command and staff exercises on this scale have not been held in the Northern Fleet for a long time. Taking into account the participation in these exercises of the multi-role aircraft-carrying group headed by the heavy aircraft-carrying cruiser Admiral Flota Sovetskogo Soyuza Kuznetsov, it is possible to claim boldly that this type of test of the fleet's strength was carried out for the first time. The Russian aircraft carrier's naval servicemen and pilots were subjected to a special test. These courageous guys had two months of alert duty in the Mediterranean and a long sea voyage behind them. They had covered more than 12,500 miles. Aircraft and helicopters had taken off from the carrier's deck around 1,500 times. The results they achieved in the course of the exercises were therefore only natural — all combat exercises were executed with the rating "excellent."

[Aleksandr Chelpanov, commander of the aircraft carrier, identified by caption] All the tasks set by the command were carried out, and, most important, everyone is alive and well.

[Klepikov] Thus the long voyage of a group of Russian warships has ended. The cruiser has arrived at its mooring.

[082335-082349] [passage omitted]

[Klepikov] A day earlier at a different garrison the aircraft carrier's deck aviation pilots were being welcomed home.

[Unidentified pilot] Our efforts were not in vain. We demonstrated Russia's might, we have shown that we have our first aircraft carrier.

[Klepikov] We hope very much that the first cruise of Russia's first and only aircraft carrier will not be its last. After four months at sea, the ship simply needs an overhaul. But where is the money for this to come from, if the volume of funds available for repairs of ships currently in service in the whole Navy totals only 10 percent of the requirement? It is also worth mentioning that preparing the aircraft carrier for the voyage cost the Navy just under the total cost of repairs of the entire Northern Fleet. At the same time, the aircraft-carrying cruiser must not be laid up for long, otherwise the level of training of deck aviation pilots achieved at such a high price will be lost. [082450] [video shows warships at sea, closeups of Admiral Kuznetsov with aircraft taking off and touching down, Chelpanov interview, ratings below deck, reunion with relatives, more views of Admiral Kuznetsov]

Russia: New Cosmodrome To Be Built at Svobodnyy, Amur Oblast

MM1004134396 Moscow Russian Public Television
First Channel Network in Russian
0805 GMT 7 Apr 96

[From the "Military Courier" program: Report over video from Svobodnyy Cosmodrome; figures in brackets denote broadcast time in GMT in hours, minutes, and seconds]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [081356-081448] [passage omitted]

[081449] [Correspondent over video of control room] The status of "State Second Experimental Cosmodrome" has been bestowed on the Main Center for Testing and Application of Space Systems by presidential decree as from 1 March. The cosmodrome is being built in Amur Oblast, near Svobodnyy city. The site was not chosen by accident. The necessary raw-material and industrial base already exists in the area. The construction of the new cosmodrome will provide for the comprehensive development of the entire Far East region. It will create around 150,000 additional jobs and will raise the level to which enterprises are used by 40 percent. The low geographical latitude will make it possible to increase the power potential of launchers by 20-25 percent in comparison with the Plesetsk Cosmodrome.

A division of strategic missile forces was stationed at this location in the past. It has been decided to make the best possible use of what the missile troops left behind. Five missile silos are being refitted as launch pads for light launchers. The technical, repair, and training facilities, communication and control systems, existing housing, and transport facilities will be used for the benefit of the Russian space program. The total value

of the infrastructure is estimated at 1.5 trillion rubles. [081559]

[081600-081621] [passage omitted comprising brief interview with Aleksandr Vinidiktov, chief of Svobodnyy Cosmodrome. Vinidiktov notes that 70 percent of what is needed to launch a satellite is already in place]

[081622] [Correspondent over archive footage of Grachev and a group of unidentified personalities, Rokot launcher in hangar] In the past the idea of building a new cosmodrome had many opponents. They argued that there was no time for this, it was not profitable, it could not be done. Circumstances have changed. The launch of a U.S. space satellite by means of a Russian Start-1 satellite is planned for September. This will bring in tens of millions of dollars.

The construction of the cosmodrome is planned in two stages. The first stage is being implemented now with the construction of launch pads for light launchers. Expenditure totals 50 billion rubles. Implementation of the second stage will begin in the year 2000. Its objective is the construction of a universal launch pad for new launchers of all classes — Neva, Yenisey, and Angara. [081705] [video shows a montage of space-related footage interspersed with footage of Svobodnyy site and facilities, interview with Vinidiktov]

Russia: North Caucasus Described as 'Criminally Dangerous Region'

LD1104112396 Moscow INTERFAX in English
0926 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sochi, April 11 (INTERFAX) — North Caucasus remains a criminally dangerous region of Russia, Federal Interior Minister Anatoliy Kulikov declared at a meeting of regional law enforcement chiefs in Sochi today.

Identifying Russia's four most criminal regions as "Ingushetia, the Volgograd region, Kalmykia, and Kabardino-Balkaria," Kulikov singled out the Adygei region for its lowest crime exposure record, and said Stavropolye and North Ossetia were the record holders "in the number of gun related felonies."

Kulikov said crime has been rampant in North Caucasus because the key police units have been concentrated in Chechnya. Easy access to arms and the threat of terror by militants have been additional conducive factors.

All this has scared away potential holiday-makers from North Caucasus resorts, Kulikov said, adding that the bulk of holiday facilities has been closed. Besides, he noted, very few can afford to spend holidays there, as "the cost of a holiday trip amounts to 30 million rubles."

Kulikov urged local law enforcement leaders to guarantee the safety of holiday-makers in the summer and fight more vigorously against violence, terror, and drug smuggling in North Caucasus.

Economic Issues

Russia: Minister Lists Favorable, Unfavorable Economic Factors

LD0904200296 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1325 GMT 9 Apr 96

[by ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 9 April (ITAR-TASS) — A trend toward revival can be observed in Russia's economy. This is shown by such factors as the drop in inflation to minimal levels, the stabilization of the ruble exchange rate, and the increasing rate of housing completions. This opinion was expressed by Ivan Materov, first deputy minister of economics, in the State Duma at parliamentary hearings: "On the concept of economic and social development of the Russian Federation, 1996-2000."

Ivan Materov said that the main factor indicating the revival of the Russian economy is "the lowering of inflation, bringing it down to minimal levels." There is no reason to think that the inflationary process might accelerate, he stressed. He said that another positive aspect is the stabilization of the ruble exchange rate which "makes it possible to calculate and plan investments." The first deputy minister noted that an indirect factor in reviving the economy is the increase in the rate of housing completions which have increased considerably compared with last year.

However, there are some factors operating in the Russian economy which have a negative effect on its development, Ivan Materov noted. Among these, in particular, are the vast differences in the population's incomes and the still unresolved problem of nonpayments. As well as these, the development of the economy is being unfavorably affected by the failure to establish an effective system for running state sector enterprises, the serious difficulties in implementing the federal budget, and the absence of significant investments in production.

These problems, Ivan Materov believes, will undoubtedly be resolved provided that the process of investment begins, and it is the main aim of the government of the Russian Federation at present to get this process moving with its program "Reforms and development of the Russian economy, 1995-1997."

Russia: Yasin Says Political Worries Paralyze Foreign Investment

MK1104111096 Moscow THE MOSCOW TIMES
in English 11 Apr 96 p 12

[Report by Sergey Lukianov: "Investment in Russia Paralyzed, Yasin Says"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Investment in the Russian economy has ground to a halt and would be threatened further by a Communist victory in June's presidential election, Economics Minister Yevgeniy Yasin said Wednesday.

Foreign, domestic and government sources of investment have all dried up as a result of political worries, high treasury-bill yields and attention to paying wage arrears, Yasin told a press conference.

"This trend cannot continue because it poses too serious a threat to the Russian economy," the minister said, adding that "the situation will be much worse" if Boris Yeltsin were not reelected.

"If privatized enterprises are selected on the basis of their compliance with communist ideals, I'm afraid we may end up with no investments," he said. But he expected a "spurt" in the second half of the year if Yeltsin won, and as much as \$90 billion over a longer period to flow into the Russian oil industry.

In the meantime, the government's pre-election focus on social issues, including last month's campaign to pay off federal wage arrears, was being carried out at the cost of severe cuts in the budgeted investment funds.

"So far, exactly as the president said, nothing has been allocated for investments," Yasin said.

The minister delivered a mixed assessment overall of Russia's economic performance during the quarter, saying that inflation was stabilizing, but that revenue collection was lagging far behind projections.

He also echoed earlier comments by government officials suggesting that the ruble corridor may be abandoned, when it is due to expire in June, as a means of improving exporters' competitiveness.

Independent analysts saw changes ahead for Russia's economic policy.

"I think that even if Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin retains his post as the president, he will be forced to change his economic policy because of the growing influence of the opposition," said Stanislav Assekritov, deputy head of the Reforma Economic Research Center.

"State securities have emptied the investment market," Assekritov added, suggesting that the government set up

a number of state-owned investment banks to finance the economy through low interest loans.

Low tax collection — budget revenues were short 41 trillion rubles (\$8.5 billion) by State Tax Service estimates — was causing rapid growth of yields on government T-bills as the Finance Ministry placed new securities on the market to cover the budget deficit, Yasin said.

Average weighted yields have been in the range of 75 percent to 100 percent for the last two weeks after a successful bid by the Central Bank to bring yields down in February to a 45 percent to 65 percent range.

Vladimir Mau, deputy director of the Institute of the Economy in Transition, said that enterprises were resisting paying taxes to the budget in order to see the outcome of the presidential elections.

"They are just waiting for a new regime to write off all the debts," he said.

Russia: Yasin Says Foreign Investment May Reach \$3 Billion in 1996

LD1004194296 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English
1719 GMT 10 Apr 96

[By Alexander Samozhnev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 10 (ITAR-TASS) — Economics Minister Yevgeniy Yasin said on Wednesday he expects foreign investment in Russia to hit three or even 3.5 billion dollars in 1996.

Yasin linked the prospective "breakthrough" in investment to two major oil projects dealing with Russia's Sakhalin shelf. He referred to experts as saying that on the whole, Russian oil industry may absorb about 90 billion dollars of foreign investment.

Speaking to the press, the minister said that, due to social and economic tensions of the first quarter of 1996, the government proved to be out of schedule with financing the projects it had pledged to support. In January-February, only one percent of the budgeted yearly amount was paid to businesses.

Russia is "near a threshold after which no further decrease in investment efficiency is possible without irreversibly destroying the economy," Yasin said.

Russia: EU To Help Modernize Russia's Textile Industry

MM1104102996 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA
in Russian 6 Apr 96 p 10

[Unattributed report: "Hope for Textile Workers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The EU is ready to use the opportunities afforded by the program of technical assistance for the CIS countries (TACIS) to modernize Russia's textile industry.

Under the TACIS program it is planned to allocate Russia 900 million ECU in 1996-2000 — equivalent to 60 percent of all the funds which the EU intends to grant the CIS states under the program.

According to assessments by experts, the EU's readiness to provide targeted help to get the Russian textile industry out of its crisis is due, in particular, to a desire to ease tension in bilateral trade in textiles. In other words, the EU is counting on promoting mutual understanding by helping to modernize Russian factories. As Oleg Davydov, vice premier of the Russian Federation Government, put it, Russia will not be imposing any tough restrictions on imports of European textiles before the end of the bilateral negotiating process.

Russia: Western Mining Trust Makes First Investment in Norilsk

MS1004122896 London FINANCIAL TIMES
in English 10 Apr 96 p 27

[Report by Kenneth Gooding: "MAM Takes 3.5m Pound Stake in Russian Nickel"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mercury Asset Management's World Mining Investment Trust has made its first investment in Russia by taking a stake in Norilsk, the world's biggest nickel producer.

The 3.5m pound investment represents less than 1 percent of funds under management and Mr Graham Birch, the fund manager said: "Our exposure is very limited but there is potential for enormous gains in the next few years if some of the problems of doing business in Russia fade away. Norilsk is a valuable asset for Russia and a lot of things can be done to make it even more valuable."

Norilsk accounts for about 20 percent of world nickel production — used mainly in stainless steel — 22 percent of platinum output and 62 percent of palladium production, both essential for some catalysts, including anti-pollution car catalysts.

But the company is based in Siberia and is responsible for 155,000 employees and their families. Mr Birch said that, if structural reforms took place in Russia and much of this social burden was transferred to the government, "the tremendous power Norilsk has to generate cash will become apparent and the value of its shares would reflect this". For 1994 Norilsk reported net earnings of \$160m (105m pound) on sales of \$2.4bn.

Norilsk's Soviet era management is at present embroiled in a legal battle with Oneximbank, Russia's second largest commercial bank, which acquired 38 percent of the company from the government and has been trying to exert control. There have been similar problems at other Russian enterprises and in some cases foreign shareholders have been struck off the register.

Mr Birch said the fund has protected its position by holding its Norilsk stake via CS First Boston [CSFB], which bought shares on its own account on behalf of western funds when Norilsk was privatised in June. "CSFB is one of the biggest traders of Russian shares and if it was badly treated it would have appalling consequences for Russia's share market," Mr Birch pointed out.

He said Norilsk eventually would have to modernise — to bring it close to western standards would cost \$2bn. "The company must be made more attractive for investors and put on a sound footing if it is to raise more capital and if the banks are to provide more support."

Russia: Government Seeks To Regain Control of Oil Shares

MK1004140196 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Apr 96 p 2

[Report by Rustam Narzikulov: "Oil Stocks Under Double Pressure. The State Property Committee and the Fuel and Energy Ministry Urge the Return of Mortgaged State Property"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday's statement by Deputy Premier Aleksandr Kazakov that the government should "look into the question of recovering state control" of oil company shares used in loans-for-shares deals at the close of 1995 came as a sensation.

Addressing a session of the Commission on Current Matters, the deputy premier did not speak about the return of the stake as a foregone conclusion. Even so, his words that the state should decide "with what funds to buy out the shares used in loans-for-shares schemes" clearly point to a strong trend within the government toward recovering the share ownership.

The government, if it really decides to repossess the shares in Lukoil, Yukos, Surgutneftegaz, Sidanko, and

Sibneft, will have to cough up more than \$500 million (including interest). This sum is quite within the range of the federal budget; it will be amply covered by two IMF tranches.

Virtually none of the entities involved in the loans-for-shares auctions call into question the financial benefits from owning the still undervalued oil stocks. The aggregate worth of the entire Russian stock market is \$17 billion, while the value of just one major Western oil company comparable with, say, Lukoil or Yukos is approximately \$30 billion (Amoco, Chevron, and so forth). So the game is definitely worth the candle.

According to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA sources, at yesterday's commission session, Aleksandr Kazakov not only leaned on the support of a figure far more influential than the State Property Committee chairman, but also on the passionate desire by Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik to return oil company stocks to the state. Yesterday the minister was to make a report on a rather incoherent subject, "Stabilization of Oil Production in Russia."

The attention of the commission members, however, was drawn to a draft commission resolution prepared by the Fuel and Energy Ministry. The draft, in particular, proposes "extending federal control of the oil company stake until 31 December 1998." Next, the document proposes "repaying the loans obtained under loans-for-shares schemes in return for the collateral of the federal stakes in the oil companies Lukoil, Yukos, Sidanko, Surgutneftegaz, and Sibneft, with federal budget funds before 1 September 1996."

Yuriy Shafranik's interest in regaining control of the stocks used for loans is quite natural. The state stake in the oil companies is the last tidbit in the fuel and energy complex that the Fuel and Energy Ministry can still hope to administer. This interest was, to a substantial degree, enhanced by the government's recent decision to transfer the management of the state shares to the ministry (earlier they were handled by the State Property Committee).

As concerns government creditors who currently hold the oil shares in trust (Imperial, Menatep, MFK, and SBS banks, and the Surgutneftegaz pension fund), Kazakov's and Shafranik's actions further complicate their position. After all, privatization through loans-for-shares auctions is drawing fierce criticism from the political opposition and part of the deputies corps. The creditors have thus come under the double pressure of political forces interested in recovering property control. If the banks manage to gain full possession of the oil shares, it will have to be recognized that there is no match for them among commercial companies in effective lobbying activity.

International Affairs**Ukraine: Kuchma Arrives in Indonesia; Meets Suharto***LD1004183996 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 10 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] On 10 April, Leonid Kuchma, president of Ukraine, arrived on a state visit in Jakarta, capital of Indonesia. Leonid Kuchma had a meeting with the president of Indonesia, Suharto, in the residence of the Indonesian president. In the second half of the day, the president of Ukraine visited [word indistinct] of the heroes of (?Kalibat) where he lay a wreath to the monument. He also visited an exhibition complex [name of complex indistinct].

In the evening, Leonid Kuchma met the vice-president of Indonesia, Try Sutrisno. The same day, the president of Indonesia held a state reception in the president of Ukraine's honor.

It is planned that on 11 April Leonid Kuchma and Suharto will hold negotiations; there will be Ukrainian-Indonesian negotiations on political and economic issues; and bilateral documents will be signed. It is expected that Leonid Kuchma will make a speech at the Indonesian Commerce and Industry Chamber and hold a press conference for Indonesian and foreign journalists.

Ukraine: Foreign Minister Seeks Cooperation With Indonesia*WS1104091996 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 0635 GMT 11 Apr 96*

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As UKRINFORM's correspondent reported from Jakarta, on April 10 morning President Kuchma arrived at the Nalim Perdanakusuma Airport nearby Jakarta to start his three-day state visit to Indonesia. The Ukrainian President will meet for talks with top Indonesian officials including President Suharto. The two heads of states are expected to sign a joint declaration on fundamentals of Ukrainian-Indonesian relations. The Ukrainian official delegation and the host party will sign bipartite agreements on trade, avoidance of double taxation and reciprocal investment encouragement and protection.

In an exclusive interview to UKRINFORM correspondent Hennadiy Udovenko, Ukraine's Foreign Minister, noted the great importance of developing comprehensive trade, economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation between Ukraine and Indonesia, a great nation within the Pacific Rim. Mr. Udovenko singled out mining, natural gas and petroleum extraction, ma-

rine shipping, shipbuilding as areas most promising for Indonesian-Ukrainian cooperation. As the Ukrainian Foreign Minister said, many of Indonesian ships and vessels, including naval ones, were once constructed by Ukrainian navy yards. Since they have been operated for quite a long period by now and thus need repair. Why not resort to the Ukrainian navy yards' services, again? Mr. Udovenko queried. Since Indonesia is an archipelago of multitudinous islands and islets, it needs lots of bridges, ferries and communications, and Ukrainian experts in constructing these may come in very handy, too, Mr. Udovenko said.

As the Ukrainian Foreign Minister stressed, the host party's obviously great interest to Ukraine as a good partner makes him feel sure of the presidential state visit's overall success.

Ukraine: Talks With Romania Deadlocked Over Ribbentrop Pact*LD0904170396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1257 GMT 9 Apr 96*

[By Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, April 9 (Itar-Tass) — "Ukrainian-Romanian talks on finalising a basic political agreement have come to a deadlock. The Romanian side insists that the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact be included in the document, which calls into question the integrity and inviolability of the borders between Romania and Ukraine," Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Anton Buteyko told a briefing here today.

Buteyko pointed out that the seventh round of the talks with the Romanian delegation led by State Secretary of the Romanian Foreign Ministry Marcelu Dinu which ended late on Monday yielded no positive results. According to Buteyko, the Ukrainian side is coming out for "a balanced agreement which would not call into question the existing border between Romania and Ukraine." Buteyko noted that "this document should not give cause to do so for generations to come."

The Ukrainian diplomat said that the sides would continue the dialogue since Ukraine attaches great importance to the development of relations with Romania. Buteyko believes that the absence of a general political agreement to a certain extent impedes the development of confidence between the two countries. Buteyko pointed out that Ukraine is making all possible efforts to sign this document.

Ukraine: Turkish Ships Said Illegally Fishing in Territorial Waters

AU1004163696 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA
UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 6 Apr 96 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Again They Have To Pay Money for Fish"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Turkish vessel "Baba Yusuf," detained by Ukrainian naval border guards on 20 March for illegal fishing, still remains in Sevastopol despite paying its fine. During the detention, the vessel suffered damages. The fine of \$33,500 was paid through the Turkish Embassy in Ukraine. However, the vessel is compelled to remain in a Sevastopol bay because its crew has no money to pay for repairs or to purchase fuel, food, or water. The Turkish fishermen are not allowed to go ashore.

Meanwhile, according to the Sevastopol border troops formation, over last few days, 15 Turkish schooners were sighted in Ukraine's maritime economic zone engaging in illegal fishing. The transgressors succeeded in leaving the zone before the Ukrainian escort vessel arrived there.

National Affairs

Ukraine: Russia Proposes New Tariff on Oil Transit Via Ukraine

LD1004194196 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1727 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 10 (PIA-Interfax) — The Russian Fuel and Energy Ministry proposed a compromise to Kiev Wednesday regarding the tariff on Russian oil transit to Europe by the Druzhba pipeline via Ukraine, a high-ranking Russian official told Interfax's Petroleum Information Agency.

The Russian ministry proposed that the tariff be \$4.90 per one tonne, the same source said.

Such a tariff is "economically justified," the source said, adding that the tariff has been calculated proceeding from the amount of oil transit via Ukraine, which totalled 17 million tonnes in 1995.

If Kiev fails to accept this proposal, Moscow "will manage to find ways to transport oil bypassing Ukraine, which will be more beneficial for Russia," the same source said.

At the beginning of 1996, Ukraine unilaterally raised the tariff on Russian oil transit via its territory by an average 10 percent to \$5.20 per tonne. Moscow has sharply objected to the tariff hike. A series of bilateral talks on the problem has failed to result in a compromise.

Ukraine: Officials Discuss Introduction of New \$100 Bill

AU1004130096 Lvov ZA VILNU UKRAYINU
in Ukrainian 6 Apr 96 p 1

[Report by Ivan Vorobel: "Dollarization of Ukraine Is a Present for Uncle Sam"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Last Thursday [4 April], representatives of the Lvov Oblast mass media met with Volodymyr Senchenko, head of the U.S. Finance Ministry Information Center in Kiev; Mykhaylo Shvayka, adviser to the head of Ukraine's National Bank; Roman Oleynyuk, head of the Administration for External Economic and Currency Transactions at the Western Ukrainian Commercial Bank; and Svitlana Shvayuk, head of department at the Lvov Oblast Administration of the Ukrainian National Bank. The meeting was held at the Lvov department of Ukraine's Journalists' Union. The introduction by the U.S. Government into circulation of the \$100 bill was the topic of the conversation and of the questions and answers. Summing up the content of everything heard there, the well-known axiom may once again be repeated with confidence: "One hundred dollars is always one hundred dollars. The old banknotes will not be removed from circulation and will not lose their value." Period. Because there are no grounds for any stock-jobbing or panic.

The most interesting thing at the meeting was the speech by Mr. Shvayka, who stated that the availability of U.S. dollars in circulation, something that is not justified by any international accords, has caused huge material losses to Ukraine. More than \$10 billion is in circulation on the state's market. If one takes into account the fact that the United States only spends \$25 on printing 1,000 \$100 bills and obtains \$99,975 profit as a result of such an operation, it is easy to estimate that we have already donated billions of dollars in emission profit to Uncle Sam.

However, we have what we have. And we will now have reliably protected \$100 bills. Although, of course, there is no lock or safe that a skilled thief would not be able to open.

Ukraine: Crimean Parliament Adopts Decree on Constitution

LD1004222896 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service
in Russian 1558 GMT 10 Apr 96

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lev Ryabchikov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol, 10 Apr — The Crimean parliament today adopted a decree on the autonomous republic's constitution. The parliament has

called on the Supreme Council of Ukraine to send a plenipotentiary group of deputies to work jointly on reaching agreement on those parts of the autonomous republic's constitution that are not recognized by Kiev. At the same time, the Crimean deputies would like the group to include peoples' deputies representing Crimea in the Supreme Council.

Under the constitution of Crimea approved by the Ukrainian parliament, the Supreme Council of Crimea is not the supreme legislative body of the republic and

has the right to form a government only in agreement with the Ukrainian president. The Crimean parliament can make amendments and additions to the constitution but they will enter into force only after approval by the Supreme Council of Ukraine.

The Constitutional Commission of the Supreme Council has been instructed to draw up proposals for changing the wording of those articles and clauses of the constitution that have not been approved within 20 days.

Belarus

Belarus: Lukashenka Cited on Integration, Other Issues

MM0904135096 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA
PRAVDA in Russian 9 Apr 96 p 7

[Interview with Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka datelined Minsk and Moscow by Olga Gerasimenko and Viktor Shutkevich; date not given:: "''Belarus'' Tractor Still Stands You in Good Stead....' On Returning Home After Signing the Sensational Treaty President Lukashenka's First Meeting Was With KOMSOMOLKA's Correspondents"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Alyaksandr Ryhoravich, you are known to be a nondrinker. Did your head not spin after the glass of vodka at the Kremlin banquet?

[Lukashenka] Yes, it did a bit. Only let me say that this happened after two glasses. Boris Nikolayevich came up to me after the first and brought me another.... This was a great day in my life for me and it would have simply been a sin not to have a drink. But I do realize the implication behind your question. I am not giddy with success, to use the well-known saying.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Russians and Belarusians seem to have gotten utterly confused about what state they are living in. First there was the empire, then the Soviet Union, the CIS, and now a Community has been formed. Could you please explain the situation....

[Lukashenka] Of course, each of us has been left to live in our own republic. We have created or, to be more precise, enshrined in law something that always existed, namely the union of two peoples, two fraternal peoples, while agreeing that each will remain a sovereign independent state. In the future as integration deepens we may yet form a single state. But the people themselves will have to decide that in a referendum.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Will the new community have its own emblems — a coat of arms, anthem, and flag?

[Lukashenka] The initial version of the treaty did make that suggestion, but we removed it. That is something for the future. If we decide to live in one state, we can come back to that.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] It is known that the new Community's 100-strong apparatus will be housed on Moscow's Staraya Square, in the Russian Presidential Staff building. Should we expect Belarusian officials to transfer en masse to Moscow? Who will pay their wages and provide them with apartments?

[Lukashenka] Half the apparatus staff will be Russians, half Belarusians. There is strict parity here, as in everything else. We will share the costs of their upkeep equally. Incidentally, the costs will not be that great. We want to recruit mainly those Belarusians who live and work in Moscow and have their own apartments. If we have to get anyone from Minsk, it will be just a few people. And they will live in the hotel attached to the Belarusian Embassy.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] What kind of administrative organs will be set up for the community — international or supranational?

[Lukashenka] Under the treaty their decisions must be implemented by national organs. Thus, they should be regarded as national organs.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] What will the Community's common currency be? Does its introduction mean that Belarus is willing to give up issuing its own currency?

[Lukashenka] Our bilateral treaty does not speak of a single but a common currency. These are not the same. A common currency is not the Russian ruble or the Kazakhstani tenge, but something akin to the West European ECU. We have no intention of giving up issuing our own currency or independent foreign trade activity, although we will of course coordinate our moves with one another.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Will Belarus be involved in putting an end to armed conflicts in Russia, in Chechnya in particular?

[Lukashenka] No, it will not. That is my position in principle, which coincides with the Russian leadership view. Russia is not currently preoccupied with how to cram Chechnya full of other states' troops but how to withdraw its own from there. Incidentally, President Yeltsin is cautious when it comes to offers of aid. Russia can cope with this problem itself. I am in favor of Russian troops leaving Chechnya with honor and dignity once they have put an end to the war.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Will Belarus suspend the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from its territory if NATO eastward expansion takes place?

[Lukashenka] So far the withdrawal is taking place in precise accordance with the established schedule. There are just 18 of the 81 missiles and three reserve warheads left and a few are waiting on the dispatch platforms. At the same time we are profoundly alarmed by the plans that you have mentioned and, in particular, by certain East European leaders' readiness to site NATO nuclear arsenals on their territory. I would not like to

scare my people and throw the West into a panic, but if this happens, we will make the appropriate response.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] So far Belarus has possibly been the only one of the former Soviet republics to succeed in preserving civic peace. The signing of the treaty with Moscow has placed it in serious jeopardy for the first time and compelled tens of thousands of people to take to the streets. How do you see that?

[Lukashenka] As a supremely unscrupulous political action, in which, to my great regret, young people have been embroiled. Moreover, many of those who urged young people to turn out onto the square themselves sat it out at home. But we should not exaggerate the significance of such actions. According to sociological polls, the overwhelming majority of the republic's population supports the treaty and even complains to me that the first step toward integration was not decisive enough.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] However, the opposition is openly calling you a traitor to the idea of national independence. This is a fairly serious charge, you will agree.

[Lukashenka] I am very pained to hear such charges and always ask people to back them up with facts. There must be facts! And the facts indicate something else: Union with Russia is the will of our people as confirmed in last year's referendum. After all, other politicians before me — Kebich for instance — also strove to secure rapprochement with Russia. But they lacked the will and the courage. But I did it although, let me be blunt, signing this treaty was no easy matter.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Many people in Moscow think that the economic treaty is far more beneficial for Belarus than it is for Russia....

[Lukashenka] I flatly reject that idea. Russia simply cannot do without Belarus. Look at the position taken by Ukraine and the Baltic. Russia has just one corridor to the West left — our republic. Some 70 percent of all Russian freight passes through its territory. We could earn \$300 million a year from transit alone.

We have never lived off other people and have not been a burden to anyone. Before the breakup of the USSR Belarus contributed \$3 billion annually to the Union budget. We have very conscientious working people, a well-developed industry, and goods that are quite capable of withstanding the toughest competition. When Russia stopped paying for them, we began vigorously developing trade with the West. It now accounts for about 45 percent of the republic's foreign trade turnover. Whereas it was 15 percent. Has Russia

stopped needed our Belaz trucks, "Belarus" tractors, textiles, and chemical fibers? No, it still needs them, but Russia had no means of paying for them. Now, following the signing of the treaty, Belarusian goods will once again be able to return to the Russian market.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Are you not afraid that this treaty will fail to live up to your countrymen's expectations? After all, many people hope that production units that have been shut down owing to lack of Russian raw materials will open up, jobs will appear, and wages will rise as a result. Whereas in Russia such giants as Zil are currently standing idle and wage arrears have become a statewide problem, which the president himself is dealing with....

[Lukashenka] This is a very important issue for me. We have pondered it a great deal and worked out all the options. Let me say one thing: Things will get no worse than they are now. But you are right to say that there will be no miracle whereby life becomes easier for everyone tomorrow. In signing the treaty we have only created the legal base needed to restore the severed economic ties between our enterprises, provide them with raw materials, ensure our goods' unimpeded access to Russia's markets and vice versa, and so forth. In the future a great deal will depend on the resourcefulness of our production workers, businessmen, and bankers.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] The aid program for the victims of the Chernobyl disaster will be the first targeted program for which common budget funds will be earmarked. On what specifically will this money be spent?

[Lukashenka] It is indeed a bitter irony of fate that we did not build this station, we did not run it, and we were not the ones — if I can go so far as to say this — who caused it to explode. But it was Belarus, whose territory suffered 70 percent of the radioactive fallout, that is mainly bearing the brunt of this disaster alone.... We have no intention of transferring that burden to Russian citizens — they have enough worries of their own. Let us accomplish one specific tangible thing together — let us complete the construction of the cancer center in Gomel on the border with Bryansk Oblast and Ukraine. For that we require \$25 million, which is not that much.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] The economic transformations in Russia have gone much further than they have in your country. How do you intend to catch up?

[Lukashenka] I myself have analyzed this matter. Believe me, no one has gone far. The slump in industrial production in Russia over the last few years has been

far deeper than in Belarus — 50 and 39 percent respectively. These figures are not mine, incidentally, they were cited recently by a Moscow newspaper, which it is hard to suspect of having any particular sympathy for Lukashenka. When I had just begun my work as president, the average wage was \$18. Now it is \$94. Meanwhile inflation stands at no more than 2 percent per month. Prices have certainly risen in our country, but this was an enforced measure. They used to be half what they are in Russia and goods that we provided with state budget subsidies were peddled outside [Moscow's] Belorusskiy Station. The fact that we relaxed prices and agreed to liberalize them does not mean that the state has totally abandoned price controls. In my view, that would be just immoral since we would be abandoning our citizens to the unruly forces of the market and saying: Sink or swim as you will, it is up to you, the state has nothing to do with it.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] Nevertheless the fact is that in terms of the pace of privatization Belarus is lagging considerably behind. Will you catch up with Russia and formulate joint privatization programs?

[Lukashenka] No, we will not. Although we are not opposed to privatization in general. We are opposed to wholesale hasty privatization, which is what, in my view, occurred in Russia. Incidentally, if the results had been brilliant, it probably would not have been necessary to change its main ideologists.... Our republic does not have that many large enterprises to be treated with contempt and sold for a song. We ask people if they want to privatize them. And we say that there is no problem, all they have to do is propose their terms and compete with one another and we will see what is most beneficial for the state.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] What do you earn as president?

[Lukashenka] About \$200 per month. I do not have my own apartment or private car. Admittedly I do buy my suits at the treasury's expense. I now have nine of them, there is even a tuxedo with a bow tie, which I have never worn. You cannot avoid it, you have to observe protocol. A president's appearance must be befitting his rank, he must not look like some drunk, he is the face of the state.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] The Moscow press often says that the trappings of power hold an excessive fascination for you, meaning a guard of 1,000 or so and a new presidential aircraft, recently bought for \$7 million.

[Lukashenka] Every day I am accompanied by three guards, another one is on duty in the out-of-town

residence where I live. I think that if someone wants to blow you away today, no guards will help. Although guards should protect against any surprises. Electing a new president will cost the republic far more. We did indeed recently buy a new aircraft. Not a Boeing, note, as is the fashion among some of my counterparts, but a Tu-154. And we did not pay \$7 million, but just over \$3 million. A president cannot travel on a scheduled aircraft!

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] When did you last visit your mother in the country?

[Lukashenka] A long time ago now, about eight months ago, possibly even longer.... I should go more often, but there is not enough time. What is more, any presidential trip is a fairly costly affair; after all, apart from the guards, you have to ensure security on the route and all the rest of it.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] How do you regard women? As we know, you live alone in Minsk without your wife, who stayed in your former home. Are there not women wanting to take her place? Are you not pestered by admirers?

[Lukashenka] I have a very good view of women, I consider them the best section of humanity. Incidentally, I owe my election mainly to women from my home region, who made a great concerted effort to vote for me. And my first New Year's toast as president was to our women, whom we should all bow before.

As for admirers.... I get many letters from women, including declarations of love. I know that there is talk that the president has 10 or 20 lovers.... What lovers, when the president is virtually never alone and is someone on whom all eyes are focused day and night? And you get so tired at work that you can barely drag your feet across the threshold. Although I try to keep in good physical shape. I regularly play tennis and go skiing and skating. That also proves to be a problem — in the winter there was nowhere to skate in the city. I told the city authorities to ensure that there was a rink in every rayon within the week. I myself have visited the central rink near the Sports Center. Even young girls were unable to keep up with me.

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] What about your passion for tennis?

[Lukashenka] I learned to play in roughly a year, and extremely well at that. Pardon my immodesty, but Yeltsin cannot match me on the court, nor can Korzhakov, and Luzhkov lost three times.... The last time I played Luzhkov we played for 5,000 tonnes of butter: If I won, Belarus would have the right to supply it to Moscow and name the price. Luzhkov is

a principled man and prepared carefully for the match. It was a terrible game. How we tussled! The mayor lost nonetheless. I told him to prepare the refrigeration facilities right then....

[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA] One last question: What do you think of KOMSOMOLKA [diminutive name for KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA]?

[Lukashenka] Our relations develop in different ways, but I would now like to say something good. Back in the late eighties KOMSOMOLKA gave me very strong support, publishing a long article entitled "The Shklovskiy Experiment." My ascent started there....

Belarus: Defense Minister on Possible Measures if Poland Joins NATO

LD1004201996 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1821 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, April 10 (Interfax-West) — If Poland is admitted to NATO, Belarus will have to take "adequate measures, both political and military," Belarusian Defense Minister Lt. Gen. Leanid Maltsev told Interfax-West Wednesday.

As an extreme measure he named a redeployment of Belarusian troops and their concentration near the Polish border. This step "may be taken only after all political means to resolve issues relating to attempts to alter the existing military-political balance in Europe are exhausted," he said.

Maltsev expressed confidence that it will be possible to avoid such extreme measures, as "everyone understands the perniciousness of the course towards military confrontation."

He could not give a definite answer as to the prospects of a deployment of Russian military bases in Belarus if Poland joins NATO. "Even if such deployment is deemed expedient some day, the issue will have to be studied for how it corresponds to the present legislation," he said.

Maltsev stressed that no matter how friendly Russia is to Belarus, it still remains a separate country, while the deployment of foreign military bases on Belarussian territory is a complex legal issue.

Belarus: Defense Minister Says Arms Reduction Targets 'Nearly Met'

LD1004201896 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1821 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, April 10 (Interfax-West) — Belarus has nearly met its commitments under the Conventional Arms in Europe Treaty, Lt. Gen.

Leanid Maltsev, the country's defense minister, told Interfax-West Wednesday.

Maltsev said that since 1992 Belarus has destroyed 1,873 tanks, 1,441 armored vehicles and 130 combat aircraft and now has its quota of 1,800 tanks, 2,600 armored vehicles, 1,615 artillery systems, 294 combat aircraft and 80 helicopters.

"Consequently, the republic has to destroy just over 100 armored vehicles, following which it can say it has honored all its commitments under the treaty," he said.

As recently as last week there were 100 tanks more to be destroyed. But there is no need to do so because Hungary undertook to destroy its 100 older tanks and Belarus sold to that country 100 newer tanks, Maltsev explained.

Belarus: Maltsev: 'No Threats to Sovereignty' From 2 Apr Treaty

WS1104091296 Minsk BELAPAN in English
0634 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] At a session of the Coordinating Council of Officer Associations of the Belarusian Armed Forces the defence minister, Lieutenant-General Leanid Maltsev, informed the Council's members of the essence of specific articles and of the whole treaty on the formation of the Commonwealth of Sovereign States that was signed by the Presidents of Belarus and Russia on April 2.

In the first instance the defence minister dwelt on the articles of the Treaty that concern to some extent the maintenance of national defence capability, military construction, the activities of the Armed Forces, and the social security and guarantees of military servicemen. Mr Maltsev laid a special stress on the provision in the Treaty, according to which "...with a view to safeguarding reliable security the Parties formulate basic principles of military construction and the use of elements of military infrastructure..", and they do so in strict "...accordance with national legislations." Thus the minister concluded, "the Armed Forces of the Republic will remain the armed forces of an independent and sovereign state, under the command of the Commander-in-Chief, the President, and acting within the limits of the Constitution, laws on defence, the armed forces and other legislative and normative acts in the Belarusian state."

Mr Maltsev also laid a special stress on the fact that according to the Treaty, the members of the Commonwealth preserve their national Constitutions, territorial integrity, state symbols, membership in the United Nations and other international organisations,

and the status of a full entity of international law. "No threats to sovereignty and independence ensue from the Treaty," Mr Maltsev said.

In conclusion the minister of defence set the Council's members to spread the information he gave them in all military units, as well as to explain the position of the leadership of the Ministry on the whole range of questions concerning the deepening of integration processes between Belarus and Russia in the military sphere to the officer corps.

Participants at the session also discussed and approved a plan of action of the Coordinating Council for 1996, considered proposals by the Coordinating Council of the Anti-Aircraft Defence Forces for making alterations in the Statute of Officer Assemblies in the Belarusian Army, and discussed immediate tasks in the Coordinating Council members' work in military units.

Belarus: Popular Front Leader Views Recent Events

WS1004143896 *Poznan WPROST in Polish* 7 Apr 96
pp 70-71

[Interview with Zyanon Paznyak, chairman of the Belarusian Popular Front, by Maria Graczyk; place and date not given: "An Experimental Empire"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Graczyk] Does Belarus still exist?

[Paznyak] It will not disappear even after the integration agreement with Russia is signed or any joint state administration is formed. You cannot seal the fate of a nation by political manipulation or atrocious statements. Only short-term political aims are achieved that way. For Boris Yeltsin that aim is staying in power, for Alyaksandr Lukashenka — the dream of becoming president of the entire Russian Federation. Once either of these targets is reached, the policy will be eschewed. Two years ago, [former] Prime Minister Kebich also attempted to establish a ruble zone; he even signed some documents and nearly integrated with Russia, yet it all came to nothing. Fusing two entirely different cultures and natures which have been enemies throughout history is unrealistic and can never succeed.

[Graczyk] What if Gennadiy Zyuganov wins the presidential elections?

[Paznyak] If it really does come to that, it will be like the restoration of the Bourbons. It will only bring the downfall of Russia and a stronger consolidation of the Belarusian nation. It would be a very difficult time, but politicians who build their future on an ideology of the past do not have any prospects. We fear, however, that Russia — as a bureaucratic empire and a criminal power

incessantly waging wars and committing crimes against humanity, especially in Chechnya — could do the same on our territory. We do not want our nation drawn into dirty wars fought by Russia. That is the greatest danger of all. Naturally, Belarusian sovereignty is also threatened, but any attempts at destroying it are futile.

[Graczyk] According to Mykola Zhulynskyy, the former Ukrainian prime minister, we are currently witnessing Moscow's experimental attempt to reconstruct the empire.

[Paznyak] If the reintegration project succeeds, the "Belarusian case" might serve as a model. The Russian empire is a relentless experimentalist playing with the fates of people, nations, and states. Imperial policies lie at the core of all these experiments.

[Graczyk] The demonstration that took place in Minsk in March has shown that some of the Belarusians do not want to lose their sovereignty. Can it be salvaged?

[Paznyak] The demonstration was a direct response to the political brawling of Yeltsin and former President Lukashenka, to attempts at depriving us of our independence. I said "former" because by assaulting the sovereignty of the state and violating the Constitution and the law, Lukashenka has placed himself beyond the Constitution. Many young people took part in the demonstration, which proves that Moscow will not find it easy to liquidate our state. Former President Lukashenka and President Yeltsin have exhausted the people's patience. In Belarus, where the fates of the sovereignty and the independence of the state are being decided, forces capable of defending our sovereignty by all legal means have emerged. The democrats, however, have no power. We can therefore count exclusively on our citizens. The latest events show that the Belarusians have begun to raise their heads, that they no longer wish to tolerate the brawling of a man who should be examined by an international psychiatric commission.

The tide has begun to turn, and Russia will not be able to subjugate Belarus. If it tried, it would encounter more difficulties than it did in Chechnya. There are not 700,000, but 10 million of us. The calm of even the most patient of nations has its limits. The first bell tolled a week ago. That is why I see the people as a major hope. I trust they will muster enough strength to save themselves — by staging protests, by civic rebellion, and by exerting pressure on parliament.

[Graczyk] Last year, however, as much as 80 percent of those people supported integration with Russia.

[Paznyak] The referendum was carried out under an authoritarian regime. All the mass media were monopolized by the presidential structures and the Russian

secret services. The people were not fully informed, they were cheated. Their conscience was manipulated. Hence, the results. Hitler, too, received nearly 90 percent of support back in 1934 (by the way, he is former President Lukashenka's favorite hero). If the referendum was held today, the results would be completely different. That is why the junta currently ruling Belarus is afraid of holding one.

[Graczyk] Does the Belarusian Popular Front intend to organize further demonstrations?

[Paznyak] We have appealed to the entire nation to prevent the destruction of our state and depriving us of our sovereignty by all possible means. We have called on the Belarusians to organize support groups, collect signatures, and take other forms of action. The March demonstration was organized not by the Belarusian Popular Front, but by the national civic committee. The Front does not organize any demonstrations, but its members — as citizens — will take various types of action in the nearest future. Thus far, we have been primarily opposing the signing of the disgraceful agreement.

[Graczyk] The Lukashenka-Yeltsin pact will activate the left in neighboring states. Syarhey Kalyakin, the Belarusian communist leader, claims talks have already been launched.

[Paznyak] The communists always hold talks and try to fix things — that is just how they are. Unlike in Belarus, however, they do not play any major role in the Baltic states. Neither do they have much power in Ukraine, because Leonid Kuchma has understood it is better to be president of a big Ukraine than a Russian governor. Thus, statements issued by the communists are purely wishful thinking. If they continue to foster such illusions, it only shows that history has taught them nothing. They are a threat to the country; if well-organized citizens do not realize the consequences of their own actions, they should be legally incapacitated as dangerous [as published].

[Graczyk] Do you not fear that an escalation of internal conflict might lead to civil war?

[Paznyak] That is a real threat because former President Lukashenka, from a psychological point of view, is completely irresponsible, fiercely hostile to all things Belarusian, obsessed by a lust for power, not to mention his delusions of persecution. That is why he himself poses a tremendous threat to the world and the stability of Belarus. Everything he does leads to the disintegration of our society and the spreading of evil and conflicts. He is paving the way for a civil war. He and his henchmen are trying to instigate conflicts within reli-

gious, ethnic, and political groups for even the slightest of reasons. Lukashenka is a hostage of Moscow, or — more precisely — the secret services of the Russian Federation. He worked for the KGB. He acts according to scenarios written at the Kremlin — he implements them, pursuing his private goals in the process.

Belarus: Parliament Speaker Explains Integration Treaty

AU1004160596 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY
in Ukrainian 9 Apr 96 p 2

[Interview with Syamyon Sharetski, Supreme Council chairman of the Republic of Belarus, by Anatoliy Kraslyanskyy in Kiev; date not given: "Integration Does Not Imply Loss of Sovereignty"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Syamyon Heorhiyovich, Ukrainian citizens would like to know what is now going on in the Republic of Belarus. Especially in what concerns the conclusion of the treaty on creating a commonwealth of sovereign states. Could you comment upon this document?

[Sharetski] I took part in signing the treaty. I will say this. Before the treaty was signed, it was discussed at a session of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Belarus under the agenda "On Further Development of Integration Between the Republic of Belarus, the Russian Federation, and Other CIS States." Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka delivered a speech. Following the debates that continued for a day and a half, the Supreme Council adopted the relevant decision. More specifically, the legislative body approved the activity of the Belarusian president aimed at intensifying integration with the Russian Federation and other CIS states. It also specified those principles upon which the treaty must be based. It is envisaged to maintain the sovereignty of the Republic of Belarus and its integrity and to ensure mutually advantageous relations between our countries and noninterference in internal affairs.

These principles have been validated by a Supreme Council decree. Moreover, the Supreme Council demanded from the Presidium to see to it that our deputies take part in the work of the Interparliamentary Assembly and promote the integration. This applies, first and foremost, to unifying the laws of the Republic of Belarus, the Russian Federation, and other CIS states. These principles were used as a foundation of the treaty signed by Belarus, Russia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan. And also between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus.

Of course, a question arises — why were two treaties necessary? The point is that the Republic of Belarus and

the Russian Federation opted for a deeper integration. This is reflected in creating joint administrative bodies and, primarily, a joint Council that comprises the presidents of the two countries, prime ministers of the governments, and heads of the parliaments. The president of the Republic of Belarus was elected as head of the Council and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin was elected as head of the executive committee, like of a joint government. He, in turn, has two deputies — on the Belarusian side and on the Russian side. It is planned that up to 100 persons will work at the executive committee. These bodies were created to supervise all joint financial-industrial groups and joint programs, including the priority one — Chernobyl.

I want to stress that some people distort facts by alleging that our countries will have a joint budget. This is not so. There will only be joint financing of joint programs. Each state will have a budget of its own that will be approved by the respective parliaments. There also are people in our Belarus who distort the essence of the treaty. For example, Zyanon Stanislavovich Paznyak, leader of the Belarusian Popular Front, spoke in Kiev and asserted that our soldiers will guard the border between Russia and China. This is not so. There will be nothing like this. A so-called collective agreement on defense has been concluded between our republic and the Russian Federation, and it is explicitly written in it that our soldiers may only serve outside Belarus with the permission of the parliament. Speaking about guarding borders, this may only be the Belarusian border — that's all. And the Russian Federation will only guard its own borders.

Incidentally, this is what the European Union practices. We are not inventing anything new. I reiterate: We only made a point of unifying our laws. It is envisaged to unify the credits and monetary systems and introduce a common currency — it will be something third [not Russian and not Belarusian], like, for example, the ECU in Europe. I believe that this is a natural process, and not just Belarus, but, I can say with confidence, also many other countries of the former Union need this. We have gone out from under the same umbrella and, as we disunited, we encountered great difficulties. For example, in Belarus, we have problems with our tractor plant, MAZ [Minsk Automobile Plant], and BelAZ [Belarusian Automobile Plant]. And of course, like Europe, we must use integration for the development of production.

At the same time, I would like to tell those hot-blooded people who believe that the Soviet Union may be restored, that it is impossible to restore the Union and also inexpedient. The states must be sovereign as they

proceed toward deep integration. There exist examples, such as Austria and the FRG. Besides, integration within the European Union is intensifying. There is even talk of a single currency. I think that nobody in the West looks forward to meeting either Belarus, or Ukraine, or Russia. They already have their common market and their integration. Everything is divided there. It is therefore clear that we must also create a common economic area. We are not the only ones who proceed toward this. I spoke to Nursultan Nazarbayev [president of Kazakhstan] and to Askar Akayev [president of Kyrgyzstan]. They are now ready to create a common customs union. This is the beginning of an intensified integration.

[Kraslyanskyy] Syamyon Heorhiyovich, Ukraine certainly follows very attentively what is going on in the Republic of Belarus and in Russia. Our people would like to know the difference between the interstate treaty and the former Union.

[Sharetski] You know that in the times of the Union, we did not even have a confederation state. It was, in fact, a federation state in which republics had insignificant rights. I know, for example, cases when Masherov [Soviet Belarusian leader], a person who was held in great esteem in the republic, was summoned to Moscow and reprimanded for one thing or another, without thinking of the reaction in Belarus.

Nothing like that could happen now, because the interstate bodies are created on principles of equality. Namely, all issues will be solved through consensus: If one side disagrees, the other side cannot adopt a decision.

[Kraslyanskyy] Many people are saying that the number of newspapers in Belarusian and book publications are being reduced in your country and that national schools are being closed down.

[Sharetski] Who is saying this? It is not true. Everything is the other way around. We publish many newspapers in the language used by authors. That same NARODNAYA HAZETA — organ of the Supreme Council — is published in both Belarusian and Russian. At the same time, another paper — ZVYAZDA, also an organ of the Supreme Council — is published in Belarusian only. Nobody closes down schools with teaching in the native language. All this misinformation is being spread by those who do not accept changes in our life and do not want to realize that our future only lies in integration.

**Belarus: Parliament Delegation Signs Agreement
With Russian Assembly**

WS1104091896 Minsk Radio Minsk Network
in Belarusian 0700 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] An agreement between the Russian Federation Federal Assembly and the Belarusian Supreme Soviet has been signed in Moscow today. The agreement says that, being guided by the provisions of the Russian-Belarusian treaty on establishing the Community, the two countries' parliaments will contribute to the establishment of a deeply-integrated community of Russia and Belarus through all forms of interparliamentary cooperation. An interparliamentary commission will be set up within the framework of the agreement to draft legislative acts essential for the functioning of the Parliamentary Assembly.

After signing the agreement, Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Syamyon Sharetski emphasized that a legislative basis for the work of the Community's Executive Committee had finally been created.

The Belarusian parliament speaker is currently attending a meeting with Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin in the Kremlin, and the parliamentarians are holding meetings with their colleagues from the Federal Assembly.

In the second half of the day, the Belarusian parliament delegation will be received by Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. Also planned for today are meetings with Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov and representatives of the Belarusian community.

**Belarus: Supreme Soviet Chairman Meets With
Yeltsin**

WS1104104596 Minsk Radio Minsk Network
in Belarusian 1000 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Syamyon Sharetski today has held a meeting with Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin.

As Syamyon Sharetski has noted, the meeting was not only constructive, but also very warm. During the conversation, it was emphasized that urgent measures are needed to make the Community's bodies operational.

Boris Yeltsin informed Syamyon Sharetski about Russia's steps in the area of international policy and his conversation with U.S. President Bill Clinton, and assessed the Belarusian parliament's initiatives in the area of integration and strengthening ties between our states in a positive manner.

Moldova**Moldova: Sangheli: Snegur Defying Court Ruling
on Creanga Dismissal**

AU1004195796 Chisinau INFOTAG in English
2020 GMT 9 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau, April 9 (INFOTAG) — Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli believes that President Snegur's demands to remove Division General Pavel Creanga from the ministerial post and appoint another person minister of defense is but a defiance of the resolution taken by the Constitutional Court.

On April 6, the president demanded from the prime minister to submit propositions on removing Creanga from the post of the defense minister, and on appointing a new person to it.

Premier Sangheli sent a reply letter to the head of state in which he writes that "though the court's resolution was put into force as from the moment of its adoption, is final and without appeal, the president is demanding — in a ultimatum-like form thus disregarding the decision of the supreme juridical instance — to dismiss Mr. Creanga and to propose an other candidacy".

"The government is alarmed about the situation which has emerged in the armed forces during the past three weeks. We expected that upon your return to the country, you, in accordance with your public statements, will fulfill the decision of the Constitutional Court which announced your Decree Number 60 of March 15 non-constitutional", the premier's message reads.

With reference to the financial and other violations in the army, which have been used by Snegur as a reason to demand the discharge of the defense minister, Andrei Sangheli writes that the government was and is speaking for an investigation into all these cases.

"As is known, the Parliament has passed appropriate documents to the General Prosecutor's Office which is already investigating into all the above-mentioned violations. Only law-enforcement bodies have the right to establish the guilty", the prime minister believes.

He expressed readiness to search for compromises in settling the problem of changing the ministry's command. "But this work must be done after appropriate consultations, including with the majority faction in parliament, and in a strict accordance with the legislation", Sangheli stressed.

Moldova: Creanga Wants To Resume Office as Defense Minister

AU1004145496 Bucharest JURNALUL NATIONAL
in Romanian 6 Apr 96 p 23

[Interview with General Pavel Creanga, "former and current" defense minister of the Republic of Moldova, by Felix Rache; place and date not given: "I Do Not Want Reunification Either With Romania or With a Possible Soviet Union"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The tense situation at the National Defense Ministry of the Republic of Moldova is far from stabilizing. After General Creanga was deposed from that office by a decree issued not so long ago by President [Mircea] Snegur, on Thursday [4 April] the Constitutional Court in Chisinau ruled in favor of the demoted general. Supported by the agrarian [Democratic Agrarian Party of Moldova] Andrei Sangheli [Moldovan prime minister], Pavel Creanga won the battle against Mircea Snegur and General Dabija [interim defense minister appointed by Snegur]. The fate of the latter, who until a few days ago led the Defense Ministry, is to be decided in the coming days. After having announced that he would resign from the leadership of the Defense Ministry as soon as the Constitutional Court confirms that the Snegur decree on his demotion is unconstitutional, General Pavel Creanga now wishes to regain his office.

[Rache] Mr. General Pavel Creanga, is it true that the specially empowered bodies of the Republic of Moldova declared your demotion from your office of defense minister as contrary to the constitution?

[Creanga] Yes. The Constitutional Court of the Republic of Moldova declared that the decree by which I was deposed is unconstitutional.

[Rache] Do you intend to reoccupy your old office?

[Creanga] Of course I do, because that would be only normal and this is what I hope will happen. I did not go to the ministry today (yesterday — editor's note), but I went to the government headquarters because there was a meeting there, and as you might have noticed, I am now at home.

[Rache] Beginning with which day do you think you can resume your functions as minister of national defense?

[Creanga] Mr. President Snegur is coming back today (yesterday — editor's note) from Lithuania and we will talk it over on how we will work in the future.

[Rache] Do you think that President Snegur will accept you as minister after he accused you of so many things? Or are those accusations not true any longer?

[Creanga] Mr. Snegur has to take back his accusations immediately because they are not true.

[Rache] In other words, his accusations that there have been financial irregularities at the Ministry of National Defense of the Republic of Moldova are untrue?

[Creanga] There are financial irregularities at all the ministries and other bodies. At the Ministry of Defense, however, there have been no serious violations [of the law]. Since 1994 and 1995 the highest specialized bodies in the Republic of Moldova have been checking everything at that ministry. Over this time period these oversight bodies spent 300 days supervising the activity of the ministry, and they established that there have been financial breaches of our budget, but these irregularities are not too grave.

[Rache] Are these irregularities your fault?

[Creanga] This is what they said, but it is not true. However, there are other problems at the ministry, which I enumerated during my news conference.

[Rache] What are they?

[Creanga] I am not going to tell you now. I will do so later.

[Rache] Mr. Creanga, is it true that you engaged in illegal dealings with armament companies in Israel?

[Creanga] The prosecution and the other authorized bodies checked on that and they found that this is not true. I did not engage in any arms deals. What we imported from Israel was clothing for the soldiers.

[Rache] Do you think you will be on amiable terms with President Snegur?

[Creanga] In my opinion, yes.

[Rache] Do you favor the integration of the Republic of Moldova within a future Soviet Union?

[Creanga] No.

[Rache] How about the reunification of the Republic of Moldova and Romania?

[Creanga] No. What I want is the Republic of Moldova to be an independent and sovereign state.

[Rache] Do you intend to take any disciplinary steps against Mr. Dabija, the person who was named to replace you at the helm of the leadership of the ministry?

[Creanga] I will not take any measures either against Mr. Dabija or the officers who sided with him. We do not have so many officers to be able to afford firing them. We need them all.

[Rache] What kind of ties do you have with General Dabija? Are you friends, or rather foes?

[Creanga] Neither friends nor foes. I am telling you again that I will not take any measures against him.

Moldova: Defense Minister Reinstated, Snegur Decree Deemed Unlawful

LD1004182996 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1730 GMT 10 Apr 96

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Chisinau, 10 Apr — General Pavel Creanga, the former defense minister dismissed

by President Mircea Snegur, has been reinstated in his post in compliance with a Constitutional Court ruling, which states that the presidential decree on his dismissal is unlawful. Presidential Aide Anatoliy Chobanu said this at a briefing in Chisinau today.

The aide said that after the Constitutional Court decision on Tuesday, President Mircea Snegur issued a decree in which he recognized that his previous decision to remove Pavel Creanga did not have legal force. At the same time, Mircea Snegur entrusted Pavel Creanga with the operational management of the troops, reserving the functions of supreme commander for himself. [passage omitted]

Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan: Nazarbayev: Yeltsin To Visit After Signing Treaty in China

*LD1004201296 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1821 GMT 10 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ALMATY, April 10 (INTERFAX) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin will visit Kazakhstan following the signing of a treaty on confidence building on the border between China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in Shanghai on April 27, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev told Interfax.

According to Nazarbayev, the pumping of Kazakh oil and gas across Russia will be one of the major issues to be discussed with Yeltsin in Almaty. Nazarbayev did not elaborate on the provisions of the agreement to be signed.

Nazarbayev noted the importance of integration of the two countries with their sovereignty and independence maintained. He emphasized that Russia is a neighbor of Kazakhstan historically and provisionally and the common border of the two countries is over 7,500 kilometers long.

Kazakhstan is interested in a democratic development of its northern neighbor and in a victory of reform forces in the June presidential elections.

Kazakhstan: EU Commissioner Cites Plans for More Cooperation

*LD1104114196 Almaty Kazakh Radio First Program
Network in Russian 1400 GMT 10 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Akezhan Qazhygeldin today received a delegation headed by Hans Van Den Broek, the commissioner of the EU commission [for relations with Central and Eastern Europe and Countries of the Former Soviet Union], who arrived in Almaty. The European Union, which unites 15 states of the continent, pursues a policy of integration aimed at creating a common market with free movement of people, goods, and capital. A bureau of the European Union opened in Almaty at the end of 1992 to grant technical assistance to our republic in line with the TACIS program for small- and medium-sized business and with the TEMPOS program in the areas of education and scientific research.

Hans Van Den Broek emphasized that the European Union regards Kazakhstan, which plays a key role in the Central Asian region, as an important partner, and plans to develop cooperation further, particularly in the areas of transport and communications. At the same time, the head of the European Commission

delegation noted the success of the president and the government of our country in implementing reforms, in achieving macroeconomic stabilization, and in carrying out structural reforms, which create favorable conditions for attracting foreign investment for the republic's economy.

Akezhan Qazhygeldin expressed his gratitude to the European Union for supporting economic reforms. He also briefed the guest on the processes of integration with the countries of the Near and Far Abroad.

Kazakhstan: Semipalatinsk Test Site Galleries Being Sealed Up

*MM1004132396 Moscow KRSNAYA ZVEZDA
in Russian 9 Apr 96 p 3*

[Report by Anatoliy Ladin: "Nuclear Jinn Cooped Up in Galleries. First of Almost 200 Test Galleries Destroyed at Former Semipalatinsk Test Range"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Almaty — Not so long ago an acquaintance of mine, an enterprising chap, on hearing that people at the former Semipalatinsk test range intend to tightly seal the galleries in which the nuclear tests were carried out, angrily exclaimed: "Why seal them? Warehouses could be organized and vegetables stored there...."

This is, regrettably, what many people think. And the further the date when the last nuclear explosion was heard at the Semipalatinsk site recedes into the past, the hazier people's memories become about the danger lurking in the galleries. A danger, which will still be "alive" for several centuries to come.

Nevertheless plenty of people have appeared recently in search of an easy buck. They have quietly made their way into the galleries and torn out cables and various pieces of equipment made of nonferrous metal, which are still "glowing," in other words producing high levels of radiation. Scrap metal with this invisible but highly terrifying property has been discovered on several occasions at the border crossing from Kazakhstan to China, for where the truckloads of "goods" were bound.

In a word, it has long been necessary to totally isolate the interior of the galleries from the outside world. But Kazakhstan is simply unable to carry out all the work. There were, after all, 223 underground nuclear explosions carried out over the fairly vast site in the mountain area of Degelen, which forms an integral part of the former test site, between 11 October 1961 and 10 October 1989. Around 200 galleries were formed.

An agreement was concluded 22 September 1995 between the U.S. Department of Defense and the Kazakhstani Ministry of Science and New Technologies on

cooperation in eliminating the nuclear weapons infrastructure. It mentions specifically the Degelen mountain complex. The overall value of the aid in eliminating the nuclear galleries has been fixed at \$6 million.

The first loud explosion was heard 2 April this year at Gallery No. 192 in the Degelen mountains. Charges were laid inside and outside the installation. The entrance was so completely destroyed that even a very strong desire to open it up using the means available would not be successful.

The practical work of closing the galleries has begun. In Kurchatov the Kazakhstani and U.S. sides signed a contract to seal the first 60 galleries in 1996-1997.

Tajikistan

Tajikistan: Tajik Premier Goes To Moscow for CIS Summit

LD1004155796 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 1000 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Today a delegation of the Republic of Tajikistan led by Prime Minister Yahyo Azimov went to Moscow to participate in the work of the Council of the Heads of CIS States. The delegation includes the heads of a number of Tajik ministries and departments.

It is envisaged that further integration will be discussed along with the issue of increasing the number of states in the Customs Union.

Tajikistan: Rakhmanov Meets Indonesian Envoy, Discusses Investments

LD0904192496 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1628 GMT 9 Apr 96

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tajikistan is interested in economic cooperation with Indonesia and hopes for Indonesian investment into its economy, President Emomali Rakhmanov said on Tuesday [9 April].

He said so at a ceremony in Dushanbe at which he accepted credentials from a newly posted Indonesian ambassador.

Dushanbe sees the posting of Soyedari Hongovongso, who is his nation's ambassador to Tajikistan and Uzbekistan and is based in Tashkent, as "an important step in building relations of friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries," Rakhmanov said.

He said that, while in New York for the celebration of the United Nations' 50th anniversary, he had two meetings with Indonesian President Suharto and assured

him that Tajikistan wished to have extensive relations with Indonesia.

Tajikistan values Indonesia's "prominent place" in the world, in particular in international bodies, and its experience of cooperation with Central Asian countries, Rakhmanov said.

He said the internal situation in Tajikistan had stabilized and that this, plus "the necessary legislative base that has been created and is operating," was a "very favorable basis" for the republic's economic relations with other countries, including Indonesia.

He said Tajikistan needed foreign capital, including Indonesian, and was ready to provide investors with necessary guarantees. "We are determined to defend and encourage foreign capital investments," he said.

He said he was confident "mutually beneficial links" between Tajikistan and Indonesia would become a reality and that Hongovongso would make his contribution to "this noble cause." He also asked the ambassador to pass an invitation to Suharto to make an official visit to Tajikistan.

Hongovongso, for his part, said Indonesia was ready to develop broad cooperation with Tajikistan, a process that should be preceded by "a comprehensive study of the economic potential of both countries." This necessitates a memorandum of understanding on the development of trade, economic, scientific and technological cooperation between Tajikistan and Indonesia, the ambassador said. He suggested cotton and rice growing, mining and textile manufacture as the principal areas for economic cooperation. Precious metals and stones were also a promising cooperation field, he said.

Tajikistan: Border Guards Thwart Attempt To Cross From Afghanistan

LD1104085396 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0557 GMT 11 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUSHANBE, April 11 (ITAR-TASS) — Russian border guards opened fire to thwart an attempt made by a group of seven armed militants to illegally cross into Tajikistan from the Afghan territory. The incident occurred in the area controlled by the Pyandzh border guard unit on Wednesday.

Russian troops were reported to have sustained no losses during brief armed clashes. The number of casualties among the militants is being specified.

Over the past twenty four hours, Russian border guards had confiscated and destroyed around 21 kilograms of drugs, mostly consisting of raw opium. The press centre of Russian border guards reported that the drug

smugglers intended to take the drugs across the Tajik Pamir highlands to the Kyrgyz city of Osh.

Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan: Government Seeks More Cooperation With NATO

LD1004162896 Ashgabat *TURKMEN PRESS*
in Russian 0730 GMT 9 Apr 96

[Unattributed report: "Turkmenistan Intends To Expand Interaction With NATO Within Partnership for Peace Program"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ashgabat, 8 Apr — Regional security and cooperation within the framework of NATO's Partnership for Peace program were discussed during the visit to Turkmenistan by U.S. permanent representative to NATO, Ambassador Robert Hunter, and during the talks he held today with members of the cabinet of ministers of the country.

As we all know, Robert Hunter said at a news conference held after consultations, by signing the relevant framework agreements at the beginning of last year [1995], Turkmenistan became the first Central Asian state to register its participation in the Partnership for Peace program. This does not, however, impose strict obligations on a state, but proposes that they respect the security of other nations, the idea of settling conflicts by peaceful means, and that they observe basic democratic freedom and human rights. According to the American diplomat, participation by Turkmenistan in the Partnership for Peace program does not contradict the basic principles of Turkmenistan's foreign policy as a neutral state. This is confirmed by the fact that Switzerland, Austria, and Finland, which are considered to be peacekeeping centers, joined this NATO initiative, he said.

Mr. Hunter said the priority directions of cooperation within the Partnership for Peace program were the training of officers, the modernization of the military sphere in areas like budget planning, consultative assistance and liquidation of the aftermath of disasters. He said that Turkmenistan should in the near future submit its proposals to NATO on cooperation with the North Atlantic bloc and that a joint commission of experts would produce a program of bilateral interaction on the basis of these proposals. But the Turkmen side expressed its readiness already during today's talks to step up partnership in the field of providing humanitarian assistance.

Turkmenistan: U.S. NATO Envoy, Ashgabat Discuss Partnership for Peace

LD0804182396 Moscow *INTERFAX* in English
1558 GMT 8 Apr 96

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ASHGABAT, April 8 (INTERFAX) — U.S. ambassador to NATO Robert Hunter and the Turkmen leadership are currently holding talks regarding Turkmenistan's participation in the Partnership for Peace (PfP) program in Ashgabat.

Talks with Turkmen Deputy Prime Minister Batyr Sardzhayev in charge of the "power" structures, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Boris Shikhmuradov, and Defense Minister Danatar Kopekov focused on assistance during emergencies, Hunter said at a news conference in Ashgabat Monday.

Turkmenistan has not so far submitted to NATO a plan for its participation in the PfP program which in particular envisages the training and preparation of officers, and consultations on relations between the army and the society, Hunter said. Countries participating in this NATO program can select projects within the PfP scope in which they are interested.

Turkmenistan is currently determining what form of participation in the PfP program it needs, Hunter said. He voiced the hope that the country would determine its participation in the NATO program in the near future.

NATO supports all kinds of regional cooperation aimed at maintaining peace, Hunter said.

Regarding the intention of Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan to create a peacekeeping battalion, Hunter said NATO would welcome a Turkmen decision to join these peacekeeping forces.

Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan: Karimov Receives EU Commission Delegation

LD0904125496 Tashkent *NARODNOYE SLOVO*
in Russian 9 Apr 96 p1

[FBIS Translated Text] On 8 April, President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan received a delegation headed by Hans Van Den Broek, commissioner of the European Union Commission.

Welcoming members of the delegation, President Islam Karimov expressed his satisfaction with the successful development of relations between our country and the European Union. He noted that the communique on Uzbekistan which has been adopted by the commission

of the European Union and to whose preparation Mr. Hans Van Den Broek made a tangible contribution, marks the beginning of a new stage in this cooperation.

The Uzbek leader informed members of the delegation of the European Union Commission about the great positive changes which have taken place in recent years in the country's political and economic life as well as in the sphere of establishing a legal basis for a democratic society. This was also acknowledged by experts of reputable international organizations, as well as by foreign specialists.

"The cooperation between Uzbekistan and the Commission of the European Union is promoting integration between our republic and European countries, which is what our people want," the president said, in particular.

Mr. Hans Van Den Broek emphasized that Uzbekistan has made serious progress in ensuring that human rights are defended and economic reforms carried out. He also said that our country has become an important trade and economic partner with the European Union. He noted that the Commission of the European Union supports the development of mutually beneficial cooperation. In the event of a positive outcome of talks on signing the agreement on partnership and cooperation between Uzbekistan and the European Union, a firm legal basis will be created for further developing and extending relations, Mr. Hans Van Den Broek said.

Sadyk Safayev, state adviser to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Deputy Prime Minister, Saidmukhtar Saidqasymov, and Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Komilov took part in the reception.

Uzbekistan: U.S.-Uzbek Oil Project Seen As Beneficial to Economy

*LD0804143396 Dushanbe DELOVOY PARTNER
UZBEKISTANA in Russian 4 Apr 96 p 4*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Direct investments in branches of the national economy aimed at boosting exports constitute an important link in long-term economic relations between Uzbekistan and the United States. An example of this is the implementation of a major project proposed by Enron Oil and Gas Uzbekistan Ltd, a leading private company engaged in oil and gas prospecting and extraction and new methods of methane extraction from coal seams in various countries of the world. The corporation's revenue stands at \$12 billion, while assets exceed \$10 billion.

Enron is heavily involved in methane extraction from coal seams in France, Australia, China, Russia, and Great Britain. They are also studying the potential for extraction and sale of hydrocarbons, oil and gas in

Uzbekistan. Today we can say with confidence that Enron is on the final leg toward implementing this project. Mr. Bob Berry, Enron representative in the CIS and the head of its office in Uzbekistan, has agreed to answer questions from our correspondent.

[Question] Mr. Berry, the implementation of such a big project is most likely not very simple. How close are you to your goal?

[Berry] Yes, indeed, this not an issue to be settled in a month. You see, before we can start our project we have to conclude a contract for the purchase and transit of gas via other countries. There is successful cooperation between Enron, the Uzbek government, and the national corporation, Uzbekneftegaz, with whom we are setting up the joint venture. The aim of the venture is to carry out further prospecting and exploitation of some oil and gas deposits and hydrocarbon reserves with a view to concluding subsequent export contracts. It is a 30-year project and, I want to emphasize, will involve capital investments of over \$1 billion. In the first year we intend to allocate up to \$200 million in direct investments and, during the first three years, to steadily increase gas extraction to an annual level of six billion cubic meters.

[Question] This is a long-term project, how long will it take before you see returns?

[Berry] Yes, this is very important. But I can confidently say that there will be tangible results from the start. We are starting on immediate development of the export potential of the Uzbek oil and gas industry, which will quickly earn hard currency for your country. Natural gas is an important item in the export-oriented branches of the Uzbek economy and until now all sales have been carried out on a barter basis. And this is what is different about Enron's activities - the hard currency received from sales of gas will boost the Uzbek economy. Also, the corporation will import to Uzbekistan state-of-the-art technology for prospecting and exploitation of hydrocarbon. One more feature of the joint venture is that there will be a minimum number of foreign staff in its management. On the technical side there will only be specialists who are there to train local workers in up-to-date methods of handling equipment and technology.

[Question] So, the joint venture will also create new jobs, won't it?

[Berry] Quite right. Though, I cannot cite precise figures now, as we are still working on the structure of the venture with Uzbekneftegaz. But I can definitely say that jobs will be created in Tashkent, and that many jobs will be created in Bukhara and Surkhandarya regions, where our joint venture will be working. [passage omitted]

Armenia

Armenia: President Receives Russia's Kazimirov
NC1004204396 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First
Program Network in Armenian 1900 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan today received a delegation headed by Vladimir Kazimirov, co-chairman of the OSCE Minsk Group and the Russian president's special envoy.

The present state and prospects for negotiations on the settlement of the Azerbaijan-Karabakh conflict were examined.

Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazyan, Deputy Foreign Minister Vardan Oskanyan, and Russian Ambassador to Armenia Andrey Urnov attended the meeting.

Armenia: Ter-Petrosyan Interviewed on Relations With Turkey

TA1004150196 Istanbul SHOW Television in Turkish
1900 GMT 9 Apr 96

[Interview with Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan by correspondent Mehmet Ali Birand on the "32d Day" program, in Yerevan; date not given — recorded, with Ter-Petrosyan speaking in Armenian with superimposed translation into Turkish]

[FBIS Translated Text]

[Ter-Petrosyan] Turkey is the shortest route that connects us to Europe and the Arab world. It is clear that we have certain interests. There is, however, the other aspect of the problem. If we leave politics aside, opening the border gates would be in the interests of Turkey as well. It might not be as vitally important as it is for Armenia, but it does have a vital importance for certain regions of Turkey, for example, for the province of Kars.

We should overcome the historic factors. We should establish good-neighbor relations based on new foundations.

[Birand] Everyone's attention was drawn to the fact that you excluded the genocide allegations from the Constitution before it was submitted to a referendum. Then Dashnak [Armenian Revolutionary Federation] was closed down. At the same time you extradited two PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan] members. In Turkey all these have been assessed as Armenian gestures toward Turkey. Were they really gestures toward Turkey, or were they done for entirely different reasons?

[Ter-Petrosyan] We are trying neither to make various gestures nor to punish the opposition. Just because

we did not include the article on genocide in the Constitution does not mean that we have renounced those views. Not including the genocide article in the Constitution was a matter of principle for us. Genocide was a political problem; whereas, the Constitution is a legal document. These two issues should not be confused. The Constitution is a lasting and not a transitory document. It should not be an issue for speculation. Actually, we could have received more votes had we included certain articles of such popularity in the Constitution. We would, however, have created a great problem for our country in the future.

I held one meeting with [Nationalist Action Party leader] Alpaslan Turkes. Our European ambassador Armen Sargisyan also met with him once. Actually, one cannot call these meetings negotiations or political contacts because no political plan or proposal was discussed in these meetings. We exchanged views on how to improve our relations. I was in Paris. They informed me of Mr. Turkes' request for a meeting. Since I never run away from such meetings, I accepted it immediately. He came together with your ambassador to Paris. I believe we chatted for about half an hour.

[Birand] How do you assess Mr. Turkes as a leader?

[Ter-Petrosyan] I observed that the concept of the state is strong in Turkes. I can say that his approach and attitude was appealing for us with regard to an issue that was important for us.

Georgia

Georgia: Shevardnadze Addresses Parliament on Abkhazia

LD1004195596 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network
in Georgian 1700 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Georgian parliament's routine spring plenary session, dedicated to the Abkhaz issue, continued work today. [passage omitted]

Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze addressed the parliament session at the evening session. He analyzed the causes of the Abkhaz tragedy and spoke at length about the political situation and those forces which, having taken advantage of Georgia's situation at the time, dragged the country into a bloody war.

Shevardnadze once again stressed the fact that the Russian reactionary forces had played a considerable role in this. The leader once again reminded those present at the session that Georgia did not want to wage war in Abkhazia as the Republic had no military potential at the time. He stressed that the view that the Georgian leadership did not start the war in Abkhazia was not yet fully established among the world public.

Shevardnadze touched on the atrocities committed by the Abkhaz separatists. He spoke about a virtual extermination of Georgians in the occupied territory, their forceful and mass eviction by using violence and weapons. He said that the separatists' aim was that one ethnic group should rule in Abkhazia, as well as to establish an apartheid-type system of elections. Shevardnadze said that before the beginning of the conflict, the policy of racism was being carried out in Abkhazia, whereas today racism is already in operation, the results of which are ethnic cleansing and genocide. [passage omitted]

Shevardnadze said that one of the key causes of the Abkhaz tragedy was treason, mass redeployment of Georgian armed formations from their positions, and the noninterference of large groups of the military deployed in west Georgia at the most decisive stage, which was tantamount to a backstabbing.

The Georgian president in his address spoke about possible ways of reclaiming Abkhazia, all the more so because world public view is in Georgia's favor, knowing where the causes of the Abkhaz events lay. In Shevardnadze's words, 32 countries of the European Union had assessed the separatists' actions as genocide and ethnic cleansing, and the CIS states almost unanimously supported Georgia and demanded the isolation of the separatists' regime.

In connection with the peacekeeping forces, Shevardnadze said that everything would be done in order to adopt the version that would be favorable to Georgia.

Shevardnadze stressed that the executive legislative body must do everything to build peace in Abkhazia. He mentioned that there were debates in parliament over the current status of Abkhazia — whether to view it as an occupied territory. He supported the formulation: Abkhazia has been occupied by separatists and outside forces.

The Georgian leader concluded by saying that the population of Abkhazia must live in kindness and that would bring them happiness.

Parliament will discuss the resolution on the Abkhaz issue at its session on 16 April.

Georgia: Abkhaz Parliament Urges End to Russian Sanctions

LD1004173496 Moscow INTERFAX in English
1216 GMT 10 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SUKHUMI, April 10 (INTERFAX) — Abkhazia's parliament called on Russia's State Duma deputies to do their utmost in order to cancel sanctions against the republic introduced by Russia and

Georgia, and to restore a normal regime on the border between Russia and Abkhazia.

The address to the Russian parliamentarians, handed over to the Duma delegation headed by deputy speaker Sergey Baburin in Sukhumi Wednesday, says that "not only economic but coercive pressure is being exerted on Abkhazia, which always gravitated towards Russia."

"This small republic is being subjected to all-round discrimination," the document says. "Georgia, which has launched a war against Abkhazia's people, makes use of Russia's military, political and economic support."

The Abkhazian MPs demanded the cancelation of all sanctions against the republic, in particular, the reconnection of Abkhazia to the inter-city and international telephone network, cut off on April 7 on Georgia's request.

Any implementation of Tbilisi's proposals to grant police functions to Russian peacekeeping forces in Abkhazia would resume the war in the region but with the participation of the peacekeepers themselves, the address says.

Georgia: Azeri Oil Consortium President Discusses Pipeline Projects

AU1104081596 Tbilisi REZONANSI in Georgian
2-3 Apr 96 p 2

[Interview with Natic Aliyev, president of the Azeri International Oil Consortium, by Malkhaz Ramishvili for REZONANSI in Baku; date not given: "The Georgian Oil Pipeline Will Possibly Also Carry Kazakh Oil"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

[Ramishvili] As is known, as a result of pressure from the United States, Iran was not allowed to participate in the Azeri International Oil Consortium. Does Iran have a chance of participating in any other Azeri oil projects?

[Aliyev] The Iranian National Oil Company did want to participate in the consortium, which we also welcomed. We even drew up a protocol on agreements, but, unfortunately, it was too late. The consortium was informed that Azerbaijan intended to concede 5 percent of its share to Iran. The U.S. Government forbade the American companies in the consortium from agreeing to this and it was precisely they that excluded Iran from participating in the consortium. However, Iran will definitely take part in other projects, the first of which will be the "Shah de Louis" [as transliterated] project.

[Ramishvili] What relations does the Azeri consortium have with the oil pipeline consortium that has been created in Kazakhstan?

[Aliyev] The "Amanil" [as transliterated] company and Russia and Kazakhstan have created the consortium that you mentioned to transport oil from the "Tengiz" field.

At the same time, they have not allowed "Chevron," which owns [plobs] the Tengiz field, to participate in the consortium. As a result of all this, there is a consortium to transport oil that does not have its own oil. Thus, during the three years that it has existed, it has not been able to find investors to start on the construction.

[Ramishvili] Is it not possible that the Baku-Supsa pipeline will also transport oil from the "Tengiz" field?

[Aliyev] This is wholly possible, if the capacity of the pipeline permits.

[Ramishvili] Are there no plans to ensure from the start that the project includes a pipeline that can transport oil to a great capacity?

[Aliyev] According to the project, the Baku-Supsa pipeline will be able to transport 7 million metric tons of oil annually. If the corresponding demand and conditions are created, it will be easy to increase this capacity through additional investment.

[Ramishvili] When will extraction of the early oil begin?

[Aliyev] According to the agreement, it should begin this year. However, on account of the fact that there has been a delay in drawing up the documentation on the pipeline (particularly on the part of Russia), the start of drilling work has correspondingly been put back. We are trying in every way to speed up the preparatory procedures.

Lithuania

Lithuania: Further on Meetings With European Parliament Leader

*WS1004145196 Tallinn BNS in English
1300 GMT 10 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Apr 10, BNS — The president of the European Parliament recommends that the Baltic countries together seek membership of the European Union as a group of three.

Europarlament President Klaus Haensch called unrealistic the position of Estonian President Lennart Meri, who has said his country is not going to take its Baltic neighbors into regard in this area and would take steps independently.

Haensch, ending a two-day visit to Lithuania, made the remarks Wednesday at a meeting with Prime Minister Mindaugas Stankevicius, a Cabinet press spokesman said.

Stankevicius also said that Lithuania's new stage of privatization would open wider the door for European businesses and attract more foreign banks to Lithuania.

Stankevicius categorically denied that Lithuania's resolve to join the EU was less than neighboring Estonia's or Latvia's.

Also discussed were Lithuania's diplomatic steps aimed at assuring support for accession to the EU. In the opinion of the European Parliament leader, Lithuania should negotiate to present its intentions and the real situation to Southern Europe, since politicians of this region at times display reservation regarding the efforts of the Baltic states.

Lithuania: Treaty With Belarus Brings Russia to Lithuania's Border

*LD0904222196 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International
Service in Lithuanian 2100 GMT 9 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russo-Belarusian union treaty signed in Moscow on 2 April is an extension of the decision adopted by the Russian State Duma on 15 March to revoke the decisions on disintegration of the Soviet Union, Romualdas Ozolas, member of the Lithuanian Seimas and chairman of the Center Union, believes.

This treaty brings Russia right to Lithuania's border, Romualdas Ozolas said speaking at a news conference on Tuesday. According to Romualdas Ozolas, Lithuania must review its state policy without delay. According to the leader of the Center Union, constant pressure exerted on Latvia and Estonia and the officially received appeal by the Russian State Duma demanding the release of former pro-Soviet communist party leaders Mykolas Burokevicius and Juozas Jaramlavicius detained in Lithuania could be seen as an attempt to involve all the Baltic states into the processes taking place in the east.

The Seimas member also maintained that recently, once again, the West has spoken rather unambiguously about the possibility of yielding to Russia's pressure concerning the expansion of NATO to the east. Having stressed that regional agreements with the Baltic and Nordic countries cannot be treated as an alternative to Lithuania's membership in NATO, Romualdas Ozolas stressed that NATO membership is an unchangeable trend in Lithuania's foreign policy and the means to implement the world's obligations to the Baltic states.

Processes which are taking place in the CIS region testify to the integration processes currently taking place in Europe, a high-ranking official at the Lithuanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said, giving his point of view to Baltic News Service on the agreement signed by Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan on further strengthening of integration in economic and cultural spheres and the Russo-Belarusian agreement signed on 2 April on setting up a commonwealth of sovereign republics.

The diplomat stressed that these integration processes are an internal affair of the CIS countries. He stressed that Lithuania will continue to aspire to achieve its strategic objectives — membership in NATO and the European Union, while recognizing the sovereign right of every country to choose its partner for cooperation and at the same time expecting other countries to respect this principle.

Lithuania also hopes that among different integration processes there will be no cause for confrontation and that preconditions for constructive relations will be created which will become the basis for security and stability in Europe, the diplomat stressed.

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